

**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, November 26, 2017**



*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Prelude/Centering Time**

**Call to Worship:**

Behold, God is doing a new thing.

**Here. Now. In the midst of daily life.**

The Holy One who created heaven and earth forms us afresh today.

**Let our spirits rise to greet our Maker.**

**\*Hymn:** Oh a Song Must Rise

**MV 142**

**Opening Prayer:**

**O Most Blessed One, as we enter into the life of your Spirit, teach our hearts to be psalms, singing forth your praise; teach our minds to be proverbs, shining forth your wisdom; and teach our lives to be parables, showing forth your glory in every gesture and deed. Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Gracious God, we acknowledge and confess in your presence the smallness of our love, the narrowness of our concern, the denial of our true humanity. Through our careless hands have slipped opportunities not taken, people not cared for, days not celebrated. We are ashamed and sorry for the ways of our unfaithfulness, and ask for reassurance and forgiveness.**

*(A time of silence, while we ponder our shortcomings and pray for guidance)*

**Melville United Church**  
**St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781**  
**Team Ministry**

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Jen Auger
Minister of Music:	
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Allan Hons
Pastoral Care	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
E-Mail:	<a href="mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com">secretary@melvilleunited.com</a>
<b>Web Site:</b>	<a href="http://www.melvilleunited.com">www.melvilleunited.com</a>
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

**November 26, 2017**

**Word of Assurance:**

No matter where we are, God is there.

No matter what we have done, God forgives.

No matter our reluctance to accept God, God has accepted us.

With that assurance, receive forgiveness, and live in fullness and hope.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Theme Conversation:**

Hymn: Jesus Bids Us Shine

**VU 585**

**New Testament Reading:** Romans 10:11-17 (*The Message*)

<sup>11-13</sup> Scripture reassures us, “No one who trusts God like this—heart and soul—will ever regret it.” It’s exactly the same no matter what a person’s religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. “Everyone who calls, ‘Help, God!’ gets help.”

<sup>14-17</sup> But how can people call for help if they don’t know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven’t heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? That’s why Scripture exclaims,  
A sight to take your breath away!  
Grand processions of people  
telling all the good things of God!

But not everybody is ready for this, ready to see and hear and act. Isaiah asked what we all ask at one time or another: “Does anyone care, God? Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?” The point is: Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ’s Word is preached, there’s nothing to listen to.

**Psalm:** Psalm 107

**VU 831**

**Reader:** Ruth Sproule

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 5:14-16 (*The Message*)

<sup>14-16</sup> “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Meditation:** “How to Save a Life”

**\*Hymn:** I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

**VU 509**

**Offering:**

**\*Offering Hymn:** For the Gift of Creation

**VU 538**

**\*Offertory Prayer:** (Unison)

**Loving God, Mother of us all, may these gifts, given gratefully, be brought to life through the power of your creative Spirit. Multiply and use them to bring the word and the touch of Jesus to your people in this place and throughout the world. Amen**

**Joys & Concerns:**

**Prayer Prelude:** Holy Sacred Spirit

**MV 15**

**Holy sacred Spirit,  
breathe your breath on us.  
Holy sacred Spirit,  
breathe your life in us. (Repeat)**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn:** Go to the World

**VU 420**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

As we go forth, let us give thanks and glory to God.

**Glory to God, whose power, working in us,  
and do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the church, and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever.  
Amen!**

**\*Parting Song:** You Shall Go Out with Joy

**VU 884**

**Postlude**

**Prayer of the Week (VU 564):**

Jesus Christ, our Saviour, alive and at large in the world; help us to follow and find you today in the places where we work and meet people, spend leisure time and make plans. Teach us to see through your eyes, and to hear the questions you ask; by the power of the Cross, and in the freedom of your Spirit, we pray. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Elora/Bethany Pastoral Charge

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Elora/Bethany Pastoral Charge

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Ruth Sproule, Mary Lloyd  
Doreen and Larry Broome

**Counters:** Mary Lloyd, Art Russell