

Melville United Church
Sunday, Jan 21, 2018
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.



Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light:

Call to Worship:

God has called us to this place,
where we can hear the stories
that have formed us as a people.

**God has called us to add our names
to the long list of those who have followed.**

God has called us to hear the story,
so that we can respond to the call.

We are called.

We respond:

“Here I am; send me.”

***Hymn: My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone (Ps 62) VU 780**

Opening Prayer:

**Gentle and disturbing God,
you have called us to this place,
you have called us to be a community of faith.
In our struggles, hold us together;
in our celebrating, be our joy;
in our serving, may we do so abundantly.
In the name of Jesus, we make this prayer.
Amen.**

Prayer for Inner Healing:

You called us, O God. You continue to call us.
Sometimes we respond willingly.

<p>Melville United Church St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781 Team Ministry</p>	
Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Jen Auger
Minister of Music Team:	Rob White, Suzanne Flewelling
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.
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Sometimes we respond only with reluctance.

**Some things we hold back;
sometimes we say, 'No.'**

We dedicate ourselves and our responses
to your service, O God.

**We pray that we become more willing as we journey in faith
knowing that you love us whatever our response. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

God calls. God calls again.

God calls again and again,

assuring us of love, justice and forgiveness,
and inviting us into the kin-dom.

We are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Ministry of Music: Every Day Is a Gift from the Lord Besig/Price

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: Jesus Saw Them Fishing

MV 113

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

help our lips to praise (*touch lips*)

help our hands to serve (*hold out hands*)

help our heart to love (*fold hands across chest*)

Amen.

Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5,10 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

(*Jonah calls Nineveh to repent*)

The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: "Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do."

Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah moved on into the city, making a day's journey. He proclaimed, "Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be

destroyed!"

So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

Reader: Susan Barth

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20 (New Revised Standard Version)

(Jesus calls the first disciples)

Now after John was arrested. Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Message: Casting Call

Covenanting with Our Music Team:

Today we want to recognize Rob and Suzanne, our new music team, who have responded to God's call to the ministry of music in our church. Singing, playing instruments, and directing musical groups are ministries of Christ among us.

In grateful appreciation for the gifts of these ministries, we offer our prayerful support and our thanks.

Rob and Suzanne, as leaders of music that lifts our Spirits and brings us closer to God, do you joyfully and willingly offer your skills and training, devotion and sensitivity to this ministry?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you honour those with whom you make music, and in faithfulness, offer your best for the purposes of bringing all of us closer to God?

I will, God being my helper.

(Congregation stands)

As a congregation, will you support Rob and Suzanne with your prayers, encouragement, and participation as together we seek to know God through the music offered?

**We will, God being our helper.
May God give us grace
to offer our music and our lives
in faithful service, thanksgiving, and praise.**

Prayer:

God, you are the Singer and the Song,
and the Source of all Harmony.
Bless these ministers of music
who offer their talents in your service.

**Grant them love for you and for all your people.
May their music inspire us, fill our hearts with joy
and bring our Spirits to feel closer to you. Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore **VU 563**

Offering:

Offering Hymn: When a Star is Shining - vs 2 **VU 97** (tune 248)

***Offertory Prayer:**

**God, we rejoice, for your presence is with us.
We give thanks for your love is abundant
and the source of our freedom.
Bless our gifts, our giving, and our hopes
for a world in which love reigns. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Gather Us In **MV 7**

**Gather us in, ground us in you.
Gather us in, ground us in you.
Gather us in, gather us in,
ground us, ground us in you. (Repeat)**

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Jesus Calls Us **VU 562**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

You have been called!

We have been called to proclaim the good news.

You are called to share the news that God's love is with us, now.

**We are called to share the news
that God's love is for all and everyone.**

Go now, to live so that the light and love of God is seen in you.

We go, knowing we are not alone.

Go, knowing God is with you - always!

Amen!

***Parting Song:** Go Tell It on the Mountain - chorus + vs 1 **VU 43**

Prayer of the week:

Gracious God, we are wonderfully made in your image. Help us to discern our gifts for ministry in the midst of a deluge of information and needs in this world. Cast us out of confusion and cast us into the community that follows Jesus and the thinking that puts love first. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Baptist Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Harmony, Brantford

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Chris Hopewell,
Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Norma Martin, David Gohn