

**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, Jan 28, 2018**  
**4th 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 calls us from wherever we live and work and play

**God gives us security in an uncertain world.**

God shares with us life, grace, and forgiveness.

**God encourages us to sing new songs.**

God challenges us as we continue this journey of life.

**God leads us and guides us with love.**

Come, let us worship together the Great Mystery that is all love.

**\*Hymn:** Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers **VU 385** (tune VU 75)

**Opening Prayer:**

It doesn't matter how far we go to run from you, God-who-calls-us:  
**you reach out and turn us around so we can follow you.**

It doesn't matter how suspicious we are of you, God-who-knows-us-  
inside-and-out:

**you remove our fears with compassion and our doubts with  
acceptance.**

It doesn't matter how often we ignore your words, God-who-speaks-to-  
us;

**you whisper to us until we listen with eager hope.**

God in Community, Holy in One,  
**continue to call us by name. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

God, we know you call us into your future.

**But sometimes, we do not recognize your voice.**

**January 28, 2018**

<p><b>Melville United Church</b> <b>St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781</b> <b>Team Ministry</b></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.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
<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

Sometimes we do not hear you calling -

**because we get too busy, or distracted by other voices.**

Sometimes we hear your call, but ignore it -

**because to follow means making changes,  
or we doubt our abilities to answer.**

Forgive us for those times that we don't acknowledge your voice;

**that we don't hear or recognize your voice,**

or that we don't respond to your voice.

**Open our minds, our hearts and our spirits  
to hear you calling. Amen.**

#### **Words of Assurance:**

In front of us, behind us, to our right, to our left: look!

**God is there!**

In our past, beside us today, waiting in the future: look!

**God is there!**

In the shadows, in the light: look!

**God is there!**

From the top of the mountains to the bottom of the seas;

in the morning, in the evening, in every moment;

**God is with us! Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**Ministry of Music:** Music Box Dancer - Frank Mills

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

(*God calls Samuel*)

Now young Samuel was in the service of YHWH under Eli. In those days, the voice of YHWH was rarely heard - prophesy was uncommon. One night Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak that he could no longer see, was sleeping on his bed. The lamp of God had not gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tent of Meeting, near the Ark of the Covenant.

Then YHWH called to Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am!" And ran to Eli saying, "You called. Here I am!"

Eli said, "I didn't call you. Now go back to sleep." He went back to sleep.

A second time, YHWH called Samuel, and he got up and went to Eli. "Here I am!" Samuel said, "You called me."

Eli repeated, "I did not call you. Go back to sleep."

At that time Samuel had not yet encountered YHWH, and the word of YHWH had not yet been revealed to him.

YHWH called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said once more, "Here I am. You called me."

Then Eli realized that YHWH was calling the boy. so he said to Samuel, "Go back and go to sleep, and if you are called again, say, 'Speak, YHWH, for your servant is listening.'" so Samuel went back to sleep.

And YHWH called, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel replied, "Yes, YHWH, I am listening."

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 139

**VU 861**

(*God has searched and known me*)

**Reader:** Mary Lloyd

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

(*Paul explains Spiritual wisdom*)

As for myself, sisters and brothers, when I came to you I did not come proclaiming God's testimony with any particular eloquence or wisdom. No, I determined that while I was with you I would know nothing but Jesus Christ - Christ crucified. When I came among you, it was in weakness and fear, and with much trepidation. My message and my preaching did not rest on philosophical arguments, but on the convincing power of the Spirit. As a consequence, your faith rests not on human wisdom, but on the power of God.

Still, there is a certain wisdom which we express among the spiritually mature. It is not a wisdom of this age, however, nor of the rulers of this age, who are headed for destruction. No, what we utter is God's wisdom: a mysterious, hidden wisdom. God planned it before all ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age knew the mystery; if they had known it, they would never have crucified the Sovereign of Glory. Of this wisdom it is written,

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard,

nor has it so much as dawned on anyone

what God has prepared for those who love God."

Yet God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Holy Spirit. She searches out all things, even the deep things of God. After all, no one knows one's thoughts except one's own inner spirit; by the same token, no one knows God's thoughts except God's Spirit. We haven't received

the spirit of the world but the Spirit of God, so that we can understand what God has freely given us. And this is precisely what we talk about, not using words taught us by human wisdom, but words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual thoughts in spiritual words.

People without the Spirit do not accept what the Spirit of God teaches. Such teachings seem like foolishness to them because they can't understand them; such things must be spiritually discerned. Spiritual people, on the other hand, can discern all things, though they themselves can be discerned by no one - for, "Who understands the mind of the Most High? Who would give instruction to God?" We, however, have the mind of Christ.

**Message:** Spiritual Discernment

**Hymn:** Seek Ye First the Kingdom

**VU 356**

**Offering:**

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

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**You gift us with blessings beyond abundance, and then make one simple request, Great Mystery - that we use them to answer the calls of those who are hungry, who are lonely, who are struggling, and who long to know that at the end you are with them. Hear our prayer, as we offer our gifts in this moment. 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:**

*(beginning with 'Holy One, Holy Oneness' by Bruce Sanguin, If Darwin Prayed)*

**Lord's Prayer - Bruce Sanguin**

**Loving Presence, luminous in all creation,  
hallowed be your name.  
Thy kin-dom come,  
May we reflect on Earth  
the yielding perfection of the heavens.  
Help us to receive an illumined measure from Earth this day.  
Forgive us when we trespass against others,  
human and other-than-human,  
as we forgive others who trespass against us.  
Keep us on the path of wisdom  
when we are tempted to take the selfish path.  
May it be your rule we follow,  
your power we exercise,  
and your radiance that allures.  
May this be the truth that guides our lives,  
the ground from which our future will grow,  
until we meet again. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** Will You Come and Follow Me

**VU 567**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

God sends us from this place,  
**to be healing hands to the world's brokenness**  
Jesus calls us as sisters and brothers,  
**to love others as he has loved us.**  
The Spirit is at work in and through us,  
**wherever we are - we will live as God's people! Amen!**

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

**VU 43**

**Prayer of the week:**

As we walk the journey of our lives, All Goodness, may we hear you speaking to us in the quiet of the nights, in the morning light, in the busy-ness of our days. May we accept and know the love that lives in our Spirit-centre and let it show. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Grand River Community Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Hornby (Hillcrest)

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Dorothy Collin, Mark Andrews,  
Joyce Keizerwaard, Bob Zirk

**Counters:** Richard Wright, Karen Smillie