

Melville United Church
Sunday, February 11, 2018
Transfiguration Sunday



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light:

Call to Worship:

God speaks and summons Earth.

We see God in the rising sun and in its setting.

God shines forth in beauty.

Our God comes in glory and does not keep silent.

A devouring fire, a tempest surrounds God.

Divine power unites Creation and calls Earth to God.

Spirit gathers God's faithful and makes a covenant of love.

Let us come together in faithfulness and love

to praise the power of God's love for us and all Creation.

***Hymn:** We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding **VU 104**

Opening Prayer:

God, your presence dazzles us and your voice speaks to our longing.

Your beauty inspires us and your power gives us hope. Your covenant graces us and we gather around you in love. Let us, for this hour, be transformed and filled with the knowledge that Spirit is real and part of us. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

God of the mountains and clear skies,

here we can see ourselves more clearly.

We long to hide away from your presence at times

the times when what we have done

has caused you and others pain.

We want to forget,

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Team Ministry

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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**those times when opportunities for doing what is right
have not been taken,
or the chance to speak out has not been grasped.
Transfigure us through our confession,
that we may accept forgiveness
and find renewal and life again. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

God's light shines in your hearts and through you.
**God of the rushing wind,
God of the still small voice, will speak to us.**
God speaks words to banish fear,
**words to conquer wrongdoing,
words to set us free,
words to guide us on the right path.
Thanks be to God! Amen!**

Ministry of Music: Soon and Very Soon – arr. J. Schrader

Joys and Concerns:

Hymn: Bread of Life, Feed My Soul

MV 194

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The elements of communion today will be served by intinction. When the time comes you will be invited to come to the front, take a piece of bread from the communal tray then move to one of the cups on either side to dip and then consume your bread. Please take the time you need before returning to your seat. If you cannot come forward for whatever reason to receive the elements you will be served in your seat.

Invitation:

As we come to this table we....
.... are welcome here.

May God be with us.
God is here among us.
Let us open our hearts to God

We open them to God and to one another.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Grounded in the vine that is our source of existence, we give thanks for the gift of life that connects us to all creation.

We are one with Earth and its creatures.

Grounded in the body that is the life of Christ, we give thanks for our brothers and sisters who follow the way of Jesus.

We are one with those who share our story.

Grounded in our passion for justice, we give thanks for all who work for the common good.

We are one with all who seek to be a community of compassion.

Grounded in the bread we break and the cup we share, we give thanks for what we receive at this table: wholeness and unifying peace, courage to break boundaries and strength to self-give.

We are one with love itself in the path that we follow and the life we are called to lead.

And so we gather with those of every time and every place to give our praise and glory as we raise our voices together to sing;

O holy, holy, holy God,

(MV 203)

O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above

bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n

creation sings your praise.

And blessed in the One who comes

and bears your name always!

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith....

.... as shown in Jesus, we sing of the mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,

(MV 204)

Christ will come again!

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,

Christ will come again!

At this time we also remember....
....as we sing his prayer together.

The Lord's Prayer: (sung)

VU 959

Words of Institution

On the night before he died....
....of life and love to each other, and to all the world.

Amen, amen, O Holy One! (MV 205)
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One,
Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,
whoever comes to me will never be hungry:
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are now ready.

Sharing of the Elements:

The body of Christ - the bread of life.
The blood of Christ - the cup of blessing.

Post Communion Prayer:

We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness;
that wine poured out replenishes;
that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another
is gift and grace. Amen.

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: 2 Kings 2:1-12 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

(*Elijah is taken to heaven*)

When YHWH was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. YHWH is sending me to Bethel."

"As YHWH lives, and you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you."

So they departed together for Bethel. The disciples of the prophets in Bethel approached Elisha, asking, "Do you know that YHWH is going to take Elijah from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "now be silent."

Then Elijah spoke, "Stay here, Elisha. YHWH is sending me to Jericho."

And Elisha replied, "As YHWH lives, and as you live, I will not leave you."

So they went to Jericho. The disciples of prophets in Jericho approached Elisha, asking, "Do you know that YHWH is going to take Elijah from you today?"

"Yes, I know," he said, "now be silent."

Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. YHWH is sending me to the Jordan."

"As YHWH lives and as you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you."

So the two of them walked on. Fifty disciples of prophets stood off at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry land.

Once across, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

Elisha replied, "Let me inherit two-thirds of your spirit," he said.

"You ask a difficult thing," Elijah said. "If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours - otherwise not."

As they were walking along and chatting with each other, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and cavalry of Israel!" And Elisha saw nothing more. Then he took hold of his clothes and tore them apart.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 50

VU 775

(*God summons the earth*)

Reader: Barb Gregory

Scripture: Mark 9:2-9 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(The Transfiguration of Jesus)

Six days after that, Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone.

And there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes; the clothes Jesus wore became dazzlingly white - whiter than any earthly bleach could make them.

Elijah appeared to them, as did Moses, and the two were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "how wonderful it is for us to be here! Let us make three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!" Peter did not know what he was saying, so overcome were they all with awe.

Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them; and there came a voice from out of the cloud: "This is my Beloved, my Own; listen to this One." Then suddenly, when they looked around they saw no one with them anymore - only Jesus.

Message: Thin Places

Hymn: I Am the Dream

MV 106

Offering:

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

***Offertory Prayer:**

Gather these gifts and offerings as you gather our hearts to yourself and each other, Precious Spirit, and teach us to be a source of love and light in the world. Amen.

***Hymn:** Fairest Lord Jesus

VU 341

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Not on the mountaintop, but into the world,

we will take a sense of the sacred.

Not in the memorialized story, but in the work of today,

we will live a sense of the sacred.

Not of the world but in the world,

know you are gathered into the holy and sacred love of God.

We go, knowing Spirit/God is with us - always. Amen!

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

VU 43

Prayer of the week:

God, you are the source of light in the world. Shine in our hearts that the world may know your love and, through us, the compassion of the Christ. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora Canadian Reformed Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Kincardine

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Chris Hopewell, Bob Zirk,
Mark Andrews, Joyce Keizerwaard

Counters:

Richard Wright, Chris Hopewell