

Melville United Church
Sunday, February 18, 2018
First in Lent

First
SUNDAY IN
LENT


** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Jen Auger

Prelude

Welcome, Life and Work of the Church

Sharing the Light

Lent can be a journey, together and alone.

Lent can be temptation for each and every one.

Lent can be a challenge to see with more than eyes.

Lent can be a pathway, through sunset to sunrise.

We light our candles to remind us Spirit guides us on our Lenten journey.

(Candles are lit)

Call to Worship

When life is wonderful,

You are there, O God.

When life is unpredictable,

You are there, O God.

When our hearts are full of joy,

You are there, O God.

When our hearts are heavy from the cares of the world,

You are there, O God.

You are here with us, O God.

Song: MV 92 Like a Rock

Opening Prayer

Holy One, as we begin our Lenten journey,

you remind us of why we are on this path.

Help us to be like Noah, trusting you even when we cannot see,

Help us to be like Ruth, knowing you to be faithful,

Help us to be like Jesus, following you where you lead.

Amen.

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 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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February 18, 2018

Prayer of Inner Healing

Loving God, you made your promise with us and all the Earth
– a promise that you will always keep.

Sometimes we struggle to keep our promises in return.

Still, you remain forgiving, inviting us to step up and do your work.

Sometimes we take the easy way out, instead of doing the hard work of following you.

Still, you remain present, offering us new chances to learn and see the world.

Sometimes we think we have all the answers, instead of trusting in you.

Still, you journey with us, never losing hope in us.

Forgive us for the times we make mistakes. Lead us in your way, O God. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Take your hands and run them from over your heads down. Imagine it is just like water washing over you. Feel God's forgiveness and love wash over you and be at peace.

Thanks be to God!

Reading: Matthew 25: 31-36

Conversation (Part 1): Who are "The Hungry"?

Reading: Matthew 25: 37-40

Song: Fill My Cup

Fill my cup, up

Let it overflow

Fill my cup, up

Let it overflow

Fill my cup, up

Let it overflow

Let it overflow with Love

Conversation (Part 2): What's my part?

Reading: Micah 6:6-8

Song: Roll over the Ocean

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Response: VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Offertory Prayer

Dear God,

Help my mouth to praise,

Help my hands to serve.

Help my heart to love.

Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the People, Prayer Jesus Taught

God of great and small,

we pretend we have control over our lives, while deep down flickers our trust in you.

Our lives are in your hands, God.

We like to think our accomplishments and success are due to our own work, so remind us:

Our lives are in your hands, God.

It is you, God, who is the giver of life, gifts, and indeed our world. And so we affirm together –

Our lives are in your hands, God.

We pray that we may trust you enough to fully put our lives in your hands, so that when you call on us we are ready and willing to answer.

Make us ready, God.

Let us respond to your call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, tend the poor and lame, and cry out against the injustice we see in the world.

Make us ready, God.

Let us receive the promise, the blessing you promised all people, and let it change us.

Let us be bearers of the blessing and share it with our neighbours – offering hope in a broken and fearful world.

Make us ready, God.

We offer our prayers to you, God of great and small,
of rain, sun, and rainbows, and we join our voices
together and with people of all times and places as
we pray,

Our Father...

Song: MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

Sending and Blessing

Parting Song: MV 18 God, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary (*repeat*)

Partners in Prayer: Grace Christian Fellowship Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Knox, Ayr

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Diane Maloney, Mary Lloyd,
Barb Gregory, Karen Smillie

Counters: Mary Lloyd, Karen Smillie