

Melville United Church
Sunday, February 25, 2018
2nd Sunday of Lent

Second

SUNDAY
IN LENT

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

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:

Come, friends, and hear once again what Holy Oneness has done for us.

God has been faithful through our days.

We come at different ages and stages, different generations,

and we serve and worship together.

Holy Presence is with all of us,

from the baby entering the world

to the people living in their twilight years.

God keeps God's promises,

no matter how young,

no matter how old we may be.

Come and open your hearts to the Spirit/God

who is with you to love and care through your entire life.

We come to worship God.

***Hymn:** Praises Singing (tune VU 240) (words-Scott Kearns)

<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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Opening Prayer:

Sarai....Sarah.

Abram....Abraham.

God....I Am.

What's in a name?

Baptizer.

Elijah.

A Prophet...

The Christ!

What's in a name?

Christian.

One of the Way.

Jesus follower.

Disciple.

What's in a name?

Quite a bit.

Relationship.

Identity.

Promise.

Then, whatever you name yourself,
whomever you may be,
come to this place and meet the One
who is both Nameless
and Name-Above-All.

We come to worship God!

Let us pray:

**God of many names,
whose love surrounds all creation -
thank you.**

**For this walk of life,
and all we meet on it,
for the days and the nights,
and for your presence in it all -
thank you.**

**Help us to share our burdens and our joys,
with you and with each other,
knowing that you are our God
and we are your people,
forever. Amen.**

Prayer for Inner Healing:

God we live in a world of many voices.

**Day and night they clamour,
telling us what to buy, whom to hate,
where to find our heart's desire.**

We pay attention to these voices

but we do not heed your voice.

We do not remember you calling us

and naming us your beloved children.

God, speak to us again -

in patience and in love.

Call us home; give us grace

to turn around and begin the journey, again. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

God's first words to us are "I love you."

God's last words to us are "I love you."

Love only waits to forgive and forget.

Friends, believe this promise.

Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music:

Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17 (Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition)

(The covenant between God and Noah)

God then said to Noah and his family, "I hereby establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you - birds, cattle, and the earth's wildlife - everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I hereby establish my covenant with you: All flesh will never again be swept away by the waters of the flood; never again will a flood destroy all the earth."

God said, "Here is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature for ageless generations: I set my bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, my bow will appear in the clouds.

Then I will remember the covenant that is between me and you and every kind of living creature, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. Whenever my bow appears in the clouds I will

see it, and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all living things on the earth."

Reader: Don Grant

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition)
(The covenant between Abram, Sarai, and God)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, YHWH appeared and said, "I am God. Walk in my presence and be blameless. I will make a covenant between you and me, and I will increase your numbers exceedingly."

Abram fell on his face before God, and God said to him, "This is my covenant with you: you will be the ancestor of many nations. You are no longer to be called Abram, "Respected Parent, " but Abraham, "Progenitor of a Multitude," for you are the progenitor of a multitude of nations. I will make you most fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and rulers will spring from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you, and your descendants after you for generations to come. I will be your God, and the God of your descendants after you."

God continued, "As for Sarai, her name will now be Sarah, "Noblewoman." I will bless her, and I will give you a child by her. I will bless her, and she will become nations; rulers of peoples will come from her."

Message: God's Promise - For All Generations

Hymn: The Church is Wherever God's People **VU 579**

Offering:

Offering Hymn: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow **VU 541**

***Offertory Prayer:**

God, you are the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, and all that comes in between. Today, we give thanks for those who came before and gave their gifts so that we could have mission, ministry, and a place to worship today. Bless the gifts that we offer and bless our endeavours to provide for those who follow. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: How Deep the Peace (Repeat) **MV 95**

Prayers of the People:

Lord's Prayer:

***Hymn:** To Abraham and Sarah **VU 634**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

As we leave this place may we be more aware of those we encounter.

Those who are older who offer wisdom,
those who are younger who offer a new way to see things.

Through it all, God is with us all, now and forever.

Go, knowing that the love and guidance
promised to Sarah and Abraham is also promised to you.

We go to share that promise with the world. Amen!

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

**God, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you. (Repeat)**

Prayer of the week:

God, you made promises to Abraham and Sarah, and we are living into them still today. May we hold tight to the name you have given each of your children - "beloved" - and live into it as heirs to the covenant made for us before. May we, as your people now, honour those who went before and those who come after. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora Road Christian Fellowship

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Letterbreen

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Diane Maloney, Mary Lloyd,
Chris Hopewell, Mark Andrews

Counters: Mary Lloyd, David Gohn