

Melville United Church
Sunday, February 4, 2018
5th after Epiphany



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* Congregation please stand as you are able.

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time

Call to Worship (Responsive):

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."

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Gracious God, you call us from many places and circumstances, and invite us to follow you. We come now to worship from different life situations. We come to be open to your Word, surprised by your grace, and humbled by your forgiveness. Call us out of ourselves and our concerns, even for this hour, so that we may be transformed by your grace. Amen.

***Hymn:** And on This Path **MV 8** *(Verse 3 written by Andrea Leblanc)*

Prayer of Confession:

God, we often feel the need for shelter in what can be a very scary world, and we confess that we do not always trust the shelter of your love. We hunker down behind the walls of our prejudices and suspicions, and when we are threatened, we build the walls higher.

<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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Your love, shown to us in Jesus, seems too vulnerable, too risky. We want something closer to our understanding, more in tune with our ways of thinking and acting. Even as we say this, we recognize how far we are from you. Please come to us and cover us with your mercy and grace.

(We reflect silently on those places in our lives where we need God's light)

Words of Assurance:

Let us wrap ourselves in the warmth of God's redeeming love.
in the cold winters of our fears and failures,
in the bleak seasons of despair,
this is what saves us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music: United in Christ - Price/Besig

Theme Conversation for the Young & Young at Heart:

Children's Song: We Are Marching (*Siyahamba*) **VU 646**

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

16 If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!
17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. 18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that

I might by all means save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11; 20 **VU 868-869**, Part I

Reader: Graeme Chalmers

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-39 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." 39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: "Who Are We Here For?"

***Hymn:** Draw the Circle Wide **MV 145**

Offering:

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

2 Where the world is waiting for an unknown day,
 where a voice forgotten cries,
 'Prepare the way!'
 where an earthly power
 makes the heart turn cold,
 there the gifts are offered:
 incense, myrrh and gold.

***Offertory Prayer** (Unison):

Take what we offer this morning as a sign of our readiness.
 Bless us in our eagerness to answer your call into the world.
 Bless us in our perseverance as we serve.
 Bless us in our faithfulness as we seek your face in others.
 Bless us as we live your love. Amen.

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:** Oh, a Song Must Rise **MV 142**

Blessing/Sending Forth:

We go, singing.
**In Swahili and English, in Zulu and Spanish,
 In French and Cree and Wendat and Italian and German,
 We go, singing.**
 We go, praising,
**On feet and with canes and with walkers,
 Rolling in wheelchairs,
 We go, praising.**

We go, sharing love.

**In sickness and in health, young or old, stout and thin,
 With varying abilities, strengths and weaknesses,
 We go, sharing love.**

We go, making peace.

**With Muslims and Jews, with Hindus and Rastafarians,
 With Presbyterians and Catholics and Anglicans and Baptists and
 Pentecostals,
 We go, making peace.**

We go as a people made in the image of God, to other people made in
 the image of God.

**Men or women or intersex or transgender, gay or straight or asexual or
 questioning, white or black or brown,
 We go as a people made in the image of God, to other people made in
 the image of God.**

For this is the Gospel,

**A gift to all peoples in all places in all times in all circumstances,
 Telling them that they are loved as they are, for who they are.
 We go, proclaiming this news!**

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

Postlude

Prayer of the Week:

God, as we travel through our week, open our eyes to those who are in
 distress. Let us hear their words, feel their pain. Let us open our hearts
 to what they most need, so that they will know that they are not alone.
 Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Ker-Tapleystown-Fulton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Joan and John Cuming,
 Graeme Chalmers, Larry Broome

Counters: Art Russell, Larry Broome