



Third Sunday IN Lent

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

Alison Rainford

& Prayer Chain Captain

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.

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March 4, 2018

Melville United Church

Sunday, March 4, 2018

3rd Sunday of Lent

* Congregation please stand as you are able.

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centring Time

Call to Worship (*Adapted from J.R.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit*)

Roads go ever ever on,
Over rock and under tree,
By caves where never sun has shone,
By streams that never find the sea;
Over snow by winter sown,
And through the merry flowers of June,
Over grass and over stone,
And under mountains of the moon.

Opening Prayer (*Unison*):

God of the Universe and all within it, we come to this place to join in praise with the sun and the moon and all the stars, with all those who have gone before us on this Road called Life, and all who will follow after. Be with us now as we worship your name, and guide our thoughts and actions so that we may become more nearly like Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

***Hymn: Morning Has Broken VU 409**

Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, this morning we bring our brokenness to you, for our burdens are too heavy for us to bear on our own. Let us lay down our packs at your feet—packs filled with self-importance, anger and

bitterness, pride, envy and lust for power. Feed us with the waybread of your spirit, and send us on our way with new packs filled with love and generosity.

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

Words of Assurance:

The God of all journeys has lightened our packs
And given us new strength to carry on.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Theme Conversation for the Young & Young at Heart:

Children's Song: Each Blade of Grass MV 37

First Reading: Genesis 2:4b-9; 15 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

At the time when YHWH made the heavens and the earth, there was still no wild bush on the earth nor had any wild plant sprung up, for YHWH had not yet sent rain to the earth, and there was no human being to till the soil. Instead, a flow of water would well up from the ground and irrigate the soil.

So YHWH fashioned an earth creature out of the clay of the earth, and blew into its nostrils the breath of life. And the earth creature became a living being.

YHWH planted a garden to the east, in Eden—"Land of Pleasure"—and placed in it the earth creature that had been made. Then YHWH caused every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, to spring from the soil. In the center of the garden was the Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Then YHWH took the earth creature and settled it in the garden of Eden so that it might cultivate and care for the land.

Psalm: Psalm 19, Refrain 2 VU 740

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:1-2 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: "The Storming of Isengard"

***Hymn:** All Things Bright and Beautiful VU 291

Ministry of Music: VU 356 Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Offering:

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

***Offertory Prayer (Unison):**

God of all this wondrous earth, we give thanks that we live in a time and a place where we have more than enough. Take here the gifts we offer, bless them and us so that they and we might work towards a world where all live in peace and prosperity. Amen.

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

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** O Lord My God VU 238

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

(Adapted from J.R.R. Tolkien's The Fellowship of the Ring)
The Road goes ever on and on
Down from the door where it began.

**Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And we must follow, if we can,
Pursuing it with eager feet,
Until it joins some larger way
Where many paths and errands meet.
And whither then?
We cannot say.**

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

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)

Postlude

Prayer for the Week:

God of the heavens and the earth, the woods and the streams and the oceans and the fields, open our eyes to the beauty in nature. Ignite within us the courage to change so that we do no further harm, and the spirit to repair the harm we have done. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Lynden

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Graeme Chalmers, Elizabeth Stinson

Graeme Chalmers, Elizabeth Stinson

Bob Zirk, Dorothy Collin

Counters: Norma Martin, Phil Brown