

Melville United Church
Sunday, April 22, 2018
Earth Day



* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude:

Welcome & Announcements:

Sharing the Light:

Call to Worship:

We gather to worship the One
who crafted creation out of chaos.

Our cries of joy
join the anthems of the universe.

We gather to lift our praise
for the presence that gives us voice.

We bring the songs
which echo in our hearts.

We gather as children of God,
our joy unbroken in God's love.

Young and old,
tone deaf and perfect-pitched,
we lift our voices in song.

Hymn: This is the Day

VU 412

Opening Prayer:

O Divine Voice

You sing,
and the universe comes into being;

O Divine Breath,

You breathe,
and all things spring to life;

O Divine Word,

You call,
and creation is sustained;

April 22, 2018

<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	
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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O Divine Flesh,
**You live in us,
 the Creator clothed in creation.**
 O Divine Spirit,
You contain all that has been formed;
 O Divine Life,
You are the pulse of all that is.

And so, in amazement and awe,
 in wonder and celebration
 we marvel at this mystery;
**In you
 all things live and move and have being,
 In all things,
 you live and move and express your Divine artistry;**
 And so we join with creation
 in the eternal song of worship and wonder.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Creator God, you have gifted us with the beauty and wonder of
 Creation.

Forgive us when we take if for granted.
 We enjoy food and shelter, clean water and fresh air,
Forgive us when we hoard what we have.
 We share our earth with animals and plants.
Forgive us when we disregard our fellow creatures.
 Transform our hearts and minds
so that we would learn to care and share.
 Teach us to respect all living things
and to touch the earth with gentleness and with love.
Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things.
**Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
 and a home to share with our kin.**
 We are part of God's good Creation.
And, as such, are loved more than we can know.
Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music: Where Should I Go (but to the Lord)
 Guest Soloist - Michael Marinovic

Scripture: Colossians 1:15-20 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)
(Christ is the firstborn of creation)

Christ is the image of the unseen God and the firstborn of all creation,
 for in Christ were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything
 visible and invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers - all
 things were created through Christ and for Christ.

Before anything was created, Christ existed, and all things hold
 together in Christ. The church is the body; Christ is its head. Christ is
 the Beginning, the firstborn from the dead, and so Christ is first in every
 way. God wanted all perfection to be found in Christ, and all things to
 be reconciled to God through Christ - everything in heaven and
 everything on earth - when Christ made peace by dying on the cross.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 148
(Let all things praise God)

VU 871

Reader: Barb Gregory

Scripture: Litany of Creation

(Inspired by Genesis 1) (from "Colouring the World", Wellsprings community).
(In the beginning)

In the beginning all was darkness
 and God said, "let there be light,"
and because God had said it, there was light.
 In the beginning all was silence
 and God sang the song of creation,
**And because God sang,
 all the stars and spheres vibrated to the music of God.**
 In the beginning, all was still
 and God laughed,
**and because God laughed,
 the waters took up the roar and the ripple of it;
 and ebbed and flowed and seeped and swirled
 and delighted in the ways of its being.**
 In the beginning all was dull,
 and God painted,
**and because God painted,
 the sky became blue,**

and purple, and pink,
and rainbows hung there.
The grass became green and flowers
and butterflies danced in the drips
and settled like jewels on the earth.

In the beginning, all was unconscious,
and God breathed,

and because God breathed,
men and women woke up from their sleeping,
they breathed of the very life of God
and stood in wonder
before the work of God's hands.

They beheld the glory of God
in all that God had made
and they saw that it was very good.

Hymn: Teach Me God to Wonder **VU 299**

Message: Mother Earth - Our Only Home

Hymn: It's a Song of Praise to the Maker **MV 30**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: If I Can Dream
Guest Soloist - Michael Marinovic

Offering Song: As Long As We Follow **MV 140**
As long as we follow in the way that God is leading,
we know God's reign will surely come.
As long as we act there is a future for creation,
a future for the universe.
We know this, we know this,
Yes, God's reign will surely come.

***Offertory Prayer:**

For all your goodness, God.

We give our thanks.

For all that we have.

We give our thanks.

Take what we offer

and multiply it tenfold,

that your work and ours may be one.

Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Where Two or Three Are Gathered **MV 14**

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.**

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.**

Prayers of the People: (beginning with 'Perspectives on Light'
- Bruce Sanguin, *If Darwin Prayed*, pg 32)

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** This Is God's Wondrous World **VU 296**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go forth singing God's praises.

We remember God's promises and blessings.

Joyfully give back to the world.

We give back the love we have received,

Know that God loves - and is - all of creation.

We go, knowing God is with us - always.

Amen!

***Parting Song:** Take Up His Song **MV 213**

Take up his song of peace and go into the world.

Take up his song of hope in ev'ry moment.

In ev'ry moment of the journey,

we're laying down our lives;

lay them down, in love, lay them down,

and take up his song. (Repeat)

Prayer of the week:

Creator God, we see you in all the beauty around us. We see you in the tiniest of creatures and the highest mountains. Remind us each day of our connection to all of creation, to each other and to you. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Unitarian Universalist Association

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Applewood, Mississauga

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Karen Smillie, Lorna Ziegler
Mark Andrews, Joyce Keizerwaard

Counters: Karen Smillie and Phil Brown