

Melville United Church
Sunday, April 29, 2018
5th Sunday of Easter

** 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:

In some parts of the world,
today feels like spring.

We worship the God of new life.

In some parts of the world,
today feels like summer.

We worship the God of growth.

In some parts of the world,
today feels like autumn.

We worship the God of the harvest.

In some parts of the world,
today feels like winter.

We worship the God of rest.

We worship the God that is with us around the globe
and here in this place.

**We worship the God of all seasons
and all places.**

Hymn: Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

VU 574

Opening Prayer:

Holy Presence, guide us in our worship today.

As we hear words of love and challenge,

move through us calling us to act upon them.

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	
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
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As we sing praises,

may our hearts be lightened.

Inspire us to reconnect with Spirit

in ways we never imagined possible.

Inspire us to be changed

by the presence of Spirit with us. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

God of love, you tell us to love one another.

Yet we often exclude others from that love.

You call us to bear fruit

yet we do not want to do the work required for inner growth.

Forgive our resistance.

Open our eyes to the areas where we need to be pruned.

May we offer your love to all.

Amend our lives so that the fruit we bear in you is sweet for all.

Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

The good news of this day is that we are always God's children,

we are always in God's family,

and God always welcomes us home.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

(Everyone who loves is born of God)

Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. Those who do not love have known nothing of God, for God is love. God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: by sending the Only Begotten into the world, that we might have faith through the Anointed One.

Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us and has sent the Only Begotten to be an offering for our sins.

Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God dwells in us, and God's love is brought to perfection in us.

The way we know that we remain in God and God in us is that we

have been given the Spirit. We have seen for ourselves and can testify that God has sent the Only Begotten as Saviour of the world. When any acknowledge that Jesus is the Only Begotten, God dwells in them and they in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God in them.

Love will come to perfection in us when we can face the day of judgement without fear - because our relation to this world is not like Christ's. There is no fear in love, for perfect love drives out fear. To fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still un-perfect in love.

We love because God first loved us. If you say you love God but hate your sister or brother, you are a liar. For you cannot love God, whom you have not seen, if you hate your neighbour, whom you have seen. If we love God, we should love our sisters and brothers as well; we have this commandment from God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 22:25-31 (*paraphrase by James Taylor, Everyday Psalms*)

(The God of all life)

In every part of the world, there are those who honour God.

They form a great congregation of the faithful.

And this is their sign --

the poor among them no longer go to sleep hungry,
their weak are protected, their strangers welcomed.

Their God gives life to the forgotten!

From the river deltas to the mountain tops,

from the rain forests to the ice caps,

all nations, all peoples, all creation

lives and breathes its praise of the Creator.

For in the end, everything comes back to God,

who is incarnate in all life.

Fat moles that burrow in the earth

and eagles that soar above it,

sleek fish that swim the oceans

and birds that feather the sky,

all owe their being to God.

None are self-sufficient;

they will all decay into dust,

except as they live in God.

As they teach their children about the great mystery of life,
their successors will also serve God.
 Thus Spirit touches generations still unborn,
and transcends the tyranny of time.

Scripture: John 15:1-8 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)
(Jesus is the true vine)

Jesus said:

"I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You've been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do in you.

Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Those who don't live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples.

Message: Branches Bearing Fruit

Hymn: Love Is the Touch

MV 89

Offering:

Ministry of Music: The Wonder of Love - Scott Kearns

When we see the wonder of a sunset,
 hear sweet music in the air,
 feel the power in a thunderstorm,
 sense connection ev'ry where,
 it's the wonder of life that we celebrate
 in awe and gratitude,
 the miracle of life that amazes us
 and leaves us humbled and moved.

When we see the majesty of mountains,
 hear the robin's tuneful song,
 feel the myst'ry of the universe,
 sense the way we all belong,
 it's the wonder of life that we celebrate
 in awe and gratitude,
 the miracle of life that amazes us
 and leaves us humbled and moved.

When we see the faces all around us,
 hear words of comfort and of care,
 feel the gentle touch of sympathy,
 sense the warmth as it is shared.

it's the wonder of life that we celebrate
 in awe and gratitude,
 the miracle of life that amazes us
 and leaves us humbled and moved.

As we see with our eyes and hear with our ears
 and feel in our heart and soul,
 we realize we're part of the miracle,
 a part of the wonder of it all.

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:**

We live in you, Holy Oneness, and bring the fruits of our lives - our time, our talent, our money. We offer them with reverence and awe. May they be used in ways that bear good fruit. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

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

**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:

Response: *(at the sound of the chime)*

Hear our prayers, Holy Presence.

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn: God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness**

VU 260***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go from here blessed by God's love.

We go to be God's love in the world.

Go from here as disciples of the Christ.

**We go, connected to the vine
but branching out in loving ways
wherever we go.**

Go, knowing God is with you - 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:

God, give us open ears and hearts to hear you words around us.

Through the gift of your whispers, may we hear you calling us to inclusion. Give us deep roots, grounded in your love as we continue to heed the call to follow and bear good fruit. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora Bethany Pastoral Charge
Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Rockwood-Stone
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Vivian and Havey Andrews
Barb Gregory, Larry Broome

Counters: Art Russell and Larry Broome