

\* Congregation please stand as you are able.

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree



Melville United Church  
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Rev. Marion Loree

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**Prelude:**

**Welcome & Announcements:**

**Sharing the Light:**

**Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 138)**

God is with us.

**God is here.**

We are grateful.

**We give praise to God.**

We are loved faithfully.

**God, the Holy One, is steadfast.**

God is with us in the midst of trouble.

**God is with us in every joy.**

God remembers God's promises to us.

**God's love lasts forever.**

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

**Hymn: God, Whose Almighty Word**

**VU 313**

**Opening Prayer:**

**We come in gratitude today, Holy Presence, today which is the 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Canada. We believe that you call us to seek unity and build bridges just as you called the founders of the United Church. Many have responded to your call over the years to follow in the Way of Jesus. We still seek to take the call seriously, to listen to scripture, to seek justice, love kindness, and walk**

humbly. Remind us, Gracious God, of who and whose we are.  
Remind us, in scripture, in song, in prayer as we worship together.  
Amen.

#### **Prayer For Inner Healing:**

God, we want to say we are sorry,  
**for the things we've done and wished we hadn't,**  
**for the things we did not do but wish we had.**  
We are sorry, Great Mystery,  
**that we don't see you in all the ways that you are here.**  
We look to images and idols we can touch and hang on to,  
**but it is never quite the same as touching holiness.**  
We are sorry we replace you with powerful rulers or heroes  
**who promise quick rewards but who do not satisfy the way you do.**  
We are sorry we don't listen  
**to your voice, your prophets, your promises and cautions.**  
We should know better,  
**but we still think we know better than you. Amen.**

#### **Words of Affirmation:**

God listens and God hears;  
God's blessings are always waiting for you;  
you are seen, you are loved, you are held,  
and you are forgiven; be at peace.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### **Ministry of Music: Let's Just Praise the Lord**

#### **Communion Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ VU 468**

#### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*The elements of communion today will be served by intinction. When the time comes you will be invited to come to the front, take a piece of*

*bread from the communal tray then move to one of the cups on either side to dip and then consume your bread. Please take the time you need before returning to your seat. If you cannot come forward for whatever reason to receive the elements please indicate to an usher and you will be served in your seat.*

#### **Invitation:**

As we come to this table we are reminded that this is not the table of Melville United Church; nor is it the table of the United Church of Canada or any particular denomination. It is the table of Jesus the Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour, are welcome here.

May God be with us.

**God is here among us.**

Let us open our hearts to God

**We open them to God and to one another.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

In the beginning there was darkness

**In the beginning there was God,**

God longing. God creating.

**God labouring. God birthing.**

God weeping. God laughing. God loving.

In the beginning there was light.

**In the beginning there was life.**

Life to be shared. Abundant life, sacred and holy.

**Life breathing. Life growing.**

Life within the earth. Life in the sky above the earth.

For in the earth was the harvest.

**For in the sky was the rainbow.**

God's covenants of life.

**In the covenant we are united.**

United, as grain in the flour. (*flour is put in the bowl*)

United as God's people,  
in Christ,  
through Christ,  
united in ministry.

Embracing life - filled with passion.

**Proclaiming life - in the midst of all that is death-dealing.**

Liberating life - with all of its blessings.

**Transforming life - out of the struggle.**

And God said, "It is good. You are good."

**In goodness we are created.**

God's goodness is seen in the water. (*water is poured*)

Out of the waters of the womb, out of oppression,  
**we are called through the waters of liberation.**

Through the tears of the cross shines the rainbow of eternal love.

**Through the waters of baptism we are joined to one another.**

We are commissioned to Christ's way in the world.

**God said, "You are my beloved."**

Beloved, we are called to be love in the world and for the world.

**We are called to be the Church.**

To be the Church is to be like sugar. (*sugar is added*)

Preserving the truths made known to us in Christ

**Sweetening the work of justice**

**with songs of resistance and persistence.**

To be the Church is to be like salt (*salt is added*)

enhancing our community with prayer and play.

**Seasoning our world though we only be a pinch.**

For God said, "You are my people."

**My family. My friends.**

My acquaintances. My partners.

**My sisters. My brothers.**

Companions! Com panis - with-bread.

So all of us shall eat of the bread.

**In the bread we encounter the mystery of the holy.**

In the bread we taste God's life and goodness.

**Through the bread we are kneaded together.**

Through the bread we are filled with God's power.

Bread is broken as Jesus was

**As we sometimes are.**

Broken to be healed.

**Broken to be shared.**

Today God's gifts are shared with us.

Like yeast rising within us (*yeast is added*)

so does the presence of the Christ,

entering the hungry places of our lives.

**Nourishing us with visions and dreams.**

And so this day we eat of this bread (*loaf of bread is lifted up*)

**a reminder of God's covenant with us.**

Bread sustaining us in life.

**Bread filling us with all that is sacred and holy.**

Bread transforming our lives and our living.

**By the bread of life we are blessed.**

Jesus also uses a cup of the fruit of the vine to teach us.

He compares the red juice to blood, poured out

**to help us remember the suffering**

**and the bloodshed in the world.**

Drinking the juice together helps us remember

that we are all part of God's special agreement.

**A covenant with God and with each other.**

### We are the body of Christ!

Look around and see the body of Christ!

Although the bread is broken like Jesus' body, (*Break bread*)

**by sharing it, we are made one.**

Although the cup represents blood spilled, (*pour juice*)

**by sharing it, we are healed.**

Let us pray...

Come, Holy Presence, come. Fill this bread and this cup with your Spirit that our souls might be nourished, making us one spiritual body, one family, united with one another that we may serve the world, and each other, bringing peace and justice to all, in your name. Amen.

### Sharing of the Elements

#### Post Communion Prayer:

**God of love, you are the firm foundation of our faith. For this time together around this special table, we give thanks. For the power of this meal, this simple bread and juice, uniting us as the Body of Christ, we give thanks. Amen.**

#### Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

(*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

*(Our inner nature is renewed day by day)*

But as we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture - "I believed and therefore I spoke" - we too believe and therefore speak, knowing that the One who raised Jesus to life will in turn raise us with Jesus, and place you with us in God's presence. You see, all of this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow, to the glory of God.

That is why we don't lose heart. And though this physical self of ours may be falling into decay, the inner self is renewed day by day. These light and momentary troubles train us to carry the weight of an eternal

glory which will make these troubles insignificant by comparison. And we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; visible things last only for a time, but the invisible are eternal.

For we know that when our earthly tent is folded up, there is waiting for us a house built by God, an everlasting home in the heavens, not made by human hands.

**Scripture: Mark 3:20-35 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)**

*(Who is my mother? Who is my family?)*

Then Jesus went home, and again such a crowd gathered that he and the disciples were unable even to eat a meal. When Jesus' relatives heard of this, they went out to take charge of him, thinking that he had lost his mind.

The religious scholars who had come down from Jerusalem said of Jesus, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and, "He casts out demons through the ruler of demons."

Summoning them, Jesus spoke in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a realm is torn by civil strife, it cannot last. If a household is divided according to loyalties, it will not survive. Similarly, if Satan has suffered mutiny in the ranks and is torn by dissension, the Devil is finished and cannot endure. No attacker can enter a stronghold unless the defender is first put under restraint. Only then can the attacker plunder the stronghold.

"The truth is, every sin and all the blasphemy the people utter will be forgiven, but those who blaspheme against the Holy spirit will never have forgiveness. They are guilty of an eternal sin." Jesus spoke all this because they said, "He is possessed by an unclean spirit."

Jesus' mother and brothers arrived and sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who is my family?" And looking around at everyone there, Jesus said "This is my family! Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my sister, my brother, my mother."

**Reader:** Joanne Mitchell

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 8:1-11,16-20, 11:14-15

(*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

(*The Israelites want a king*)

When Samuel grew old, he appointed his two sons as judges over Israel. But they did not follow Samuel's ways: they desired wealth, they took bribes, and they distorted justice. So the body of elders of Israel came to Samuel at Ramah, and said, "You are old, and your sons pervert your ways. Appoint a ruler to lead us as all the other nations do."

Samuel was not happy when they asked for a ruler to judge them. He prayed to YHWH, however, who responded. "Give to the people whatever they ask for. They are not rejecting you, they reject me as your ruler. As they did from the day I brought them up from Egypt to this day. They desert me and worship other gods, as they are doing to you. Listen to them carefully. But warn them solemnly and let them know the rights of the ruler who will rule them"

Samuel reported to those asking for a ruler all that YHWH said to him. "This is the type of ruler who will rule over you," Samuel said.

The ruler will take the male and female workers, your best cattle and donkeys and take them for personal use. Your ruler will take a tenth of your flocks and you yourselves will become slaves. On that day you will cry out against the very ruler you chose. But YHWH will not answer your pleas on that day."

The people refused to listen to Samuel's warning, and said, "No! We must have a ruler over us. Then we will be like other nations who have rulers to lead us and to lead us in warfare and fight our battles."

Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, it is the time for us to go to Gilgal to establish our reign anew." So the people went to Gilgal and proclaimed Saul ruler before YHWH at Gilgal. They sacrificed a peace offering before YHWH. And Saul with all the Israelites celebrated the event with great joy.

**Message:** I Thought I Knew

**Hymn:** He Leadeth Me

VU 657

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** Just a Closer Walk With Thee

**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:**

**Your love is steadfast, Holy Oneness, and you are ever faithful. May  
the gifts we offer from the many blessings we have received shine  
light in unseen places, bring hope to the rejected, and ease some  
suffering in our world. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**Prayer Prelude:** Spirit of Life VU 381

**Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn:** Blessed Assurance VU 337

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

And now, touched by God's Spirit,  
**which makes us free,**  
 held in God's love,  
**which gives us strength,**  
 befriended by Jesus,  
**who breaks down walls,**  
 let us live with hearts wide open to all the adventure,  
**to all the pain and all the joy,**  
 of being God's people in every place God calls us to be.  
**Amen!**

**\*Parting Song: Go Now In Peace**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.**

**God will go with you each hour of every day.**

**Go now in faith steadfast strong and true.**

**Know God will guide you in all you do.**

**Go now in love, and show you believe.**

**Reach out to others so all the world can see.**

**God will be there around, within, above.**

**Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Prayer of the week:**

We give thanks, Creator God, for your vision for justice and wholeness  
 for our world. May our choices promote that vision of justice, as we  
 seek to live out a life that models the wholeness that you intend. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** St. James Anglican Church, Fergus

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** St. John's Stevensville

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Doreen and Larry Broome,  
 Barb Gregory, Bob Zirk

**Counters:**

David Gohn and Larry Broome