

**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday June 17, 2018**  
**Father's Day Sunday**

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*\* 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 walk by faith, not by sight.

**Yes, we walk by faith -**

**faith that is God's gift to us.**

We walk by faith, not by sight -

**because sight falters,**

**and sight can be deceived.**

We walk by faith, not by sight.

**Faith will not fail us,**

**nor will it disappoint.**

We gather here together to strengthen our faith,

**we gather to encourage one another**

**in the journey of faith.**

Come, people of God, let us worship together with joy and conviction.

**Hymn:** We Praise You, O God

**VU 218**

**Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, we give praise for your goodness.

**You knew us and loved us even before we were born.**

You delight in us.

**No matter our age or our health,**

**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
Chair of Pastoral Care	
& Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
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**June 17, 2018**

our schooling or our status,

**we matter to you, our life-long guide and friend.**

Though old traditions die and loved ones depart

**the breath of your spirit**

**blows through us like a cool change.**

In your love we become a new creation,

**fill us now with your transforming love. Amen**

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

As in the seed, in us there is the potential

for growth and wonderful change, Holy Presence.

**Forgive us when we are blind**

**to the potential in ourselves and others.**

As in the seed, your Spirit waits

to open us up to new growth.

**Forgive us when we fail**

**to nurture the seed of your Spirit within us.**

As in the seed, encouragement helps each of us

to grow and blossom.

**Forgive us when we forget**

**to encourage others to be all they can be.**

As in the seed, our lives can grow

to become shelter and new life for others.

**Forgive us and help us**

**to bloom where we are planted. Amen.**

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

God's power for good knows no limits. Spirit can take our small

beginnings and make more of them than we could ever imagine. Know

this, and open your heart and live fully.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music:** Try A Little Kindness

#### **Theme Conversation:**

#### **Hymn:** A Place in the Choir

##### **Chorus:**

**All God's critters got a place in the choir.**

**Some sing low. Some sing higher.**

**Some sing out loud on the telephone wire.**

**And some just clap their hands or paws**

**or any thing they got now.**

**Listen to the bass. It's the one on the bottom  
where the bull frog croaks and the hippopotamus  
moans and groans with a big t'do,  
and the old cow just goes "Moo."**

##### **Chorus:**

**The dogs and the cats they take up the middle  
while the honey bee hums and the cricket fiddles.  
The donkey brays and the pony neighs  
and the old coyote howls.**

##### **Chorus:**

**Listen to the top where the little birds sing  
and melodies with the high notes ringing.  
The hoot owl hollers over ev'ry thing  
and the jay bird disagrees.**

##### **Chorus:**

**It's a simple song of living sung ev'rywhere  
by the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear  
the grumpy alligator and the hawk above,  
the sly raccoon and the turtle dove.**

##### **Chorus:**

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:6-17*(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)**(Walk by Faith, not by sight)*

And so we are always full of confidence, even though we realize that to live in the body means to be absent from Jesus Christ. We walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are full of confidence and would actually prefer to be absent from the body and make our home with Christ. Whether we are living in the body or absent from it, we are intent on pleasing Christ. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, and each of us will get what we deserve for the things we do while in the body, good or bad.

It is because we know “the fear of God” that we try to persuade others. What we really are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. No, we are not attempting to commend ourselves to you once again. We are just giving you a reason to be proud of us. In that way you will have an answer for those who boast of what is seen, rather than what is in the heart. If we are beside ourselves, it is for the sake of God. If we are in our right minds, it is for you.

The love of Christ overwhelms us whenever we reflect on this: that if one person has died for all, then all have died. The reason Christ died for all was so that the living should live no longer for themselves but for Christ, who died and was raised to life for them.

And so from now on, we don't look on anyone in terms of mere human judgment. Even if we did once regard Christ in these terms, that is not how we know Christ now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old order has passed away; now everything is new!

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 20**VU 742***(We will trust in God)***Reader:** Bob Mitchell**Scripture:** Mark 4: 26-34*(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)**(Parables of the growing seed and the mustard seed)*

Jesus said further, “The reign of God is like this: a sower scatters seed on the ground, then goes to bed at night and gets up day after day. Through it all the seed sprouts and grows without the sower knowing how it happens. The soil produces a crop by itself - first the blade, then the ear, and finally the ripe wheat in the ear. When the crop is ready, the sower wields the sickle, for the time is ripe for harvest.”

Jesus went on to say, “What comparison can we use for the reign of God? What image will help to present it? It is like a mustard seed which people plant in the soil: it is the smallest of all the earth's seeds, yet once it is sown, it springs up to become the largest of shrubs, with branches big enough for the birds of the sky to build nests in its shade.”

Using many parables like these, Jesus spoke the message to them, as much as they could understand. Everything was spoken in parables, but Jesus explained everything to the disciples later when they were alone.

**Message:** Growing in the Dark**Hymn:** In the Bulb There is a Flower**VU 703****Offering:****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:**

**Creator God, for the miracle of life silently going on around and through us every second of the day, we give great thanks. May we also be wasteful and flourishing givers of life and love, and may these presented gifts reflect that heartfelt desire. Amen.**

**Joys & 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: How Firm a Foundation VU 660**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away.

**See, everything has become new!**

God is opening up new paths before us.

**Let us step forth boldly.**

And may the blessing of God,  
the Peace of Christ  
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit  
be felt with you in each new moment,  
this day and always

**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:**

Dear God, we confess that instead of putting our trust in you, we often want to know the outcome before we say yes to the invitation. Grant us the courage to answer your call, and help us to remember you are with us in the dark and the light of our growing moments. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Bethel Baptist Church, Fergus

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** St. Mark's, Dundas

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Karen Smillie, Mark Andrews  
Joyce Keizerwaard, Chris Hopewell

**Counters:** Karen Smillie, Dick Haas