

Melville United Church
Sunday July 22, 2018
9th Sunday after Pentecost



** 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 are a dwelling place for God,
each one renewed in the Spirit,
together one in that same Spirit,
a holy temple of peace.

We welcome God here,
already and always in our midst;
be welcomed by God, and by each other,
all family in God's love.
Come, people of God, let us worship together.

Hymn: God, Whose Love is Ever with Us **VU 399**

Opening Prayer:

God, we pray for the gift of place -
a space where we may experience your presence,
where we may attend to the needs of others and ourselves,
where we may rest, and where we may serve.
For in such a place do we find life and hope, now and always.
Amen.

Prayer For Inner Healing:

Peace often eludes us, difference divides us,
and we turn from your way of love, Great Mystery.
As we come together to worship,
we remember our division and lack of harmony.
Forgive us, God of peace, make us whole again.

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 July 22, 2018
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
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As we come together to worship,
we remember our indifference to the needs of others.

Forgive us, God of love, make us whole again.

As we come together to worship,
we remember our separation from the natural world.

Forgive us , Creator, make us whole again.

As we come together to worship,
we remember that we will never truly rest until we rest in you.

Bring us home, Holy Oneness, make us whole again. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

We are not strangers.

We are not alien to one another.

We are members together of God's own house

And each of us is home to Spirit.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music:

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord.

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

Help my lips to praise.

Help my hands to serve.

And help my heart to love. Amen

Reading for Reflection: *(For the month of July a reading other than a Psalm will be offered for contemplation.)*

Desiderata - Words for Life

— Max Ehrmann, 1927

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-14

(David is not the one to build God's house)

When David finally settled into the palace, and YHWH gave him rest from enemies on every side, he said to the prophet Nathan, "Here I am living in this house of cedar while the Ark of God sits in a tent!"

Nathan replied to David, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for YHWH is with you."

That night the word of YHWH came to Nathan, and said, "Go and tell my servant David that this is what YHWH wants: Are you the one to build me a Temple? I have been without a Temple from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling place. Whenever I travelled with the people of Israel, did I ever say to the governors whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a Temple made out of cedar?"

"Now then, tell my servant, David, "This is what YHWH Omnipotent says: I took you from the pastures and from following sheep to be the ruler of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and destroyed all your enemies in your path. I will give you fame like the fame of the great ones on the earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel. I will plant them where they will have a home of their own - a place where they will never be disturbed. Never again will the sinners oppress them as they did in the past ever since the time I appointed judges to lead my people Israel. I will give you security from all your enemies.

"Furthermore, I alone will establish your house. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you. Your successor will come from your own body, and I will establish your dynasty. It is you who will build a Temple to honour my Name, and I will establish your throne for an eternal dominion. I will be mother and father to you, and you will be my child.

Reflection: House and Home - Part 1

Hymn: Let Us Build a House

MV 1

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

(You are members of the household of God)

Bear in mind that at one time the men among you who were Gentiles physically - called "the Uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the Circumcised," all because of a minor operation - had no part in Christ and were excluded from the community of Israel. You were strangers to the Covenant and its promise; you were without hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For Christ is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of hostility that kept us

apart. In his own flesh, Christ abolished the Law, with its commands and ordinances, in order to make the two into one new person, thus establishing peace and reconciling us all to God in one body through the cross, which put to death the enmity between us. Christ came and “announced the Good News of peace to you who were far away, and to those who were near”; for through Christ, we all have access in one Spirit to our God.

This means that you are strangers and aliens no longer. No, you are included in God’s holy people and are members of the household of God, which is built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus as the capstone. In Christ the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in our God; in Christ you are being built into this temple, to become a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Reflection: House and Home - Part 2

Hymn: Blest Be the Tie That Binds

VU 602

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:**

The riches we have received we gladly share in pursuit of peace in the world. May your blessing, O God, go with these gifts, and with each of us, as hope across borders that would divide. 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:** God Be With You ‘Til We Meet Again

VU 422

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Let us leave this place knowing that wherever we go, God is there.

We go with that blessing, encouraged and challenged.

May you know God’s peace in creation,

God’s guidance in Wisdom’s voice,

and God’s love in the presence of the Spirit.

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:

Reconciling God, in Christ we are no longer divided. Forgive us for the times when we have put borders between ourselves. May we, in you, become a united family, living in ways that make your love and grace visible to the world. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora Road Christian Fellowship

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Trinity, Beamsville

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Joan and John Cuming, Alison Rainford

Counters: David Gohn and Ralph Rainford