



Melville United Church
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781
Team Ministry

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| 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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September 2, 2018

Melville United Church
Sunday, September 2, 2018

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time

Call To Worship:

We come, like Abraham, Sarah, and John the Baptist,
people with vision.

We come, like Job, Thomas, and the Samaritan woman,
people with questions.

We come, like Moses, Jeremiah, and Mary,
people with self-doubts.

We come, like Joshua, Deborah, and Stephen,
people with courage.

We come, like David, Mary Magdalene, and Paul,
people with regrets.

We come, like Hagar, Uriah, and the Syrophenician woman,
people with wisdom from the margins.

We come, like Rebekah and Samuel, like Hosea and Esther, like
 Nathaniel and Martha, like John, Mark and Priscilla,
people with a part to play in the story of faith.

Opening Prayer:

O Most Blessed One, as we enter into the life of your Spirit, teach our hearts to be psalms, singing forth your praise; teach our minds to be proverbs, shining forth your wisdom; and teach our lives to be parables, showing forth your glory in every gesture and deed. Amen.

***Hymn:** Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

VU 357

Call to Confession:

One of the stories we like to tell ourselves is that we are “good people,” and that our (few) sins don’t matter. Our hearts know different, and sometimes we are weighed down by the knowledge that we aren’t as good as we pretend to be. Let us confess our sins to God, and be freed from our burdens.

Prayer of Confession:

God of Love, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done; we have sinned in ignorance; we have sinned in weakness; we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, and renew our lives.

(We reflect in silence...)

Words of Assurance:

No matter where we are, God is there.

No matter what we have done, God forgives.

No matter our reluctance to accept God, God has accepted us.

With that assurance, receive forgiveness, and live in fullness and hope.

Amen!

A Time for the Young and Young at Heart:

Children’s Song: I Am the Dream

MV 106

First Reading: Ruth 1:1-18 (NRSV)

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
 or to turn back from following you!
 Where you go, I will go;
 where you lodge, I will lodge;
 your people shall be my people,
 and your God my God.
 Where you die, I will die—
 there will I be buried.
 May the LORD do thus and so to me,
 and more as well,
 if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Psalm: Psalm 23 (Sung) **VU 748**

Gospel Reading: Luke 10: 25-37 (NRSV)

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: “Tell Me A Story”

***Hymn:** I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

VU 509

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.
We know this, we know this.
Yes, God's reign will surely come.

***Offertory Prayer: (Unison)**

Caring God, may we offer not only our material gifts, but our whole selves to you, and to all those who need our support in the quest for justice. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Liberator. Amen.

Celebrations 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: I Love to Tell the Stories VU 343**

Blessing/Sending Forth:

Go into the world:
 dance, laugh, sing and create.
We go with the assurance of your blessing, O God.
 Go into the world:
 risk, explore, discover, and love.
We go with the assurance of your grace, O God.
 Go into the world:
 believe, hope, struggle, and remember.
We go with the assurance of your love, O God.
Thanks be to God!

***Parting Song:** Go Now In Peace
Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry 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, within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Postlude

Prayer for the Week:

Story-telling God, as I travel through this week, open my ears and my heart to the stories of those who cross my path, and grant me the courage to tell my own stories to those who would listen. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: West Montrose

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Doreen and Larry Broome,
Lynne Lamb, Mark Andrews

Counters: Lynne Lamb, Larry Broome