

Melville United Church
Sunday September 16, 2018
Season of Creation
Sky Sunday



* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude:

Welcome & Announcements:

Sharing the Light: *(based on A Song of Faith)*

God is Holy Mystery,
beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.
Yet, in love,
the one eternal God seeks relationship
with all of creation including each of us.
As we share this light may we be reminded
that God's presence is part of who we are.

Call to Worship: Chaordic Trust -*Bruce Sanguin - If Darwin Prayed*

Come, friends of Spirit,
let us gather in gratitude,
opening to the chaos of life:
the mistakes,
the messes,
and the muddles.

But let us also open
to the order of things -
the magnificent
and the marvellous pattern of it all -
and to beauty that is beyond our minds
to comprehend,
but not to be apprehended by.

Let us calmly celebrate
that we are held
by an order that emerges from the chaos,
and by a chaos that loosens suffocating structures,

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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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and let us learn to trust

**that this play of Order and Chaos
is Spirit
dancing its way
into a sanctified future.**

Come, let us worship the Creator together.

Hymn: This Is God's Wondrous World **VU 296**

Opening Prayer:

God of all Creation, the voice of your Spirit sings this cosmos into being. You set the earth spinning, and your voice brings order out of chaos. We gather to bless and celebrate the Creation and offer our chaotic and confused lives for your purposes. May we know the joy of being part of this wondrous world as we sing and pray and share this time together. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Wondrous God, Creator of all, your beauty is everywhere,

but sometimes we forget to look.

All of Creation sings your song,

but we forget to listen.

We take for granted each sunrise, each sunset,

we focus on our own lives,

and stop looking up to see just how far your light can reach.

Open our eyes, open our ears, open our hearts, O God.

Help us to remember that we are not all there is. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Be glad and rejoice! God is with you, working through you to fulfill the purpose of the universe. You may see only darkness but God turns your head and bathes you in the light of all the stars in the sky. Know you are forgiven and loved.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music: I, The Lord of Sea and Sky **VU 509**

Story: The Day the Sun Disappeared

Hymn: Sing a Happy Hallelujah! **VU 224**

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

Help my lips to praise.

Help my hands to serve.

And help my heart to love. Amen.

Scripture: Philippians 2:14-18 (*Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(*Live beyond reproach & shine like stars in the sky*)

In everything you do, act without grumbling or arguing; prove yourselves innocent and straightforward, children of God beyond reproach, in the midst of a twisted and depraved generation - among which you shine like stars in the sky, while holding fast to the word of life. As I look to the day of Christ, you give me cause to boast, proving that I didn't run the race in vain or work to no purpose. Even if my life is to be poured out like a libation upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I'm glad of it and rejoice with all of you. May you be glad for the same reason, and rejoice with me!

Responsive Reading: Psalm 19:1-16

- *paraphrase by James Taylor, Everyday Psalms (Scientific study)*

"The heavens declare the glory of God,

and the firmament showeth God's handiwork..."

The whole earth is God's textbook.

From the edges of the atmosphere

to the core of the planet,

the wonders of the world expand our understanding.

Rocks have no words, nor do cells have syllables,

yet their message can be read anywhere.

Even the fiery stars, racing through space

yield their secrets to those whose minds

are open to the mysteries of God's universe.

Reader: Allan Hons

Scripture: Jeremiah 4:23-28 (*Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(*The earth mourns*)

I looked at the earth - it was chaos and emptiness. I looked to the heavens - their light was gone. I looked to the mountains - they quaked, and the hills swayed back and forth.

I looked - I saw no one. Nothing! All the birds had flown away. I looked - the fertile land was desert. All its towns laid waste before

YHWH, before God's fierce wrath. Thus says YHWH: "The whole land will be desolate, but I will not completely destroy it. So the earth mourns and the heavens above turn black. For I made known my intentions, I made up my mind, I will not turn back."

Message: The Sky's the Limit

Hymn: God of the Sparrow

VU 229

Offering:

Offering Song: We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky (verse 1- MV 143)

**We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
for we are part of all that is
within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life
in ev'ry earthly nation.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

We celebrate today the sun, the moon, the stars, the sky, and the wonder of God that fills us with an awe that transcends words. We present our gifts in the hope that they may be used in ways that honour our planet, Mother Earth. Amen.

Joys & Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Breathe on Me, Breath of God (vs 1,3) VU 382

**Breathe on me breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Touch the Earth Lightly

VU 307

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

***Parting Song:** We Will Go with God

MV 223

**We will go with God, my sisters!
We will go with God!
We will go with God, my brothers!
We will go with God!
On this day of great joy we will go with God.
On this day of great joy we will go with God.**

Prayer of the week:

God of all creation, everywhere we go, your presence can be felt. As we look at the sky, we are reminded of the vastness of your love, the blanket of grace with which you cover Earth. Help us to remember that not all your wisdom comes through words. Help us listen for the language of the moon, and the sun, inspire in us a sense of awe at things which are large that we may be moved to care for things which are small. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: West Plains, Burlington

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Lynne Lamb, Barb Gregory,
Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters:

David Gohn, Lynne Lamb