

Melville United Church
Sunday September 23, 2018
Season of Creation
Mountain 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: (Iona community)

This we know: the earth does not belong to us,

we belong to the earth.

This we know: all things are connected,

like the blood that unites one family.

This we know: we did not weave the web of life,

we are merely a strand in it.

This we know: whatever we do to the web of life,

we do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,

let us give thanks as we worship the Creator together.

Hymn: God We Praise You for the Morning

VU 415

Opening Prayer:

Whether you bring us up to the tops of the mountains or walk alongside us through the deepest valleys, Holy Oneness, we belong to you. We pray that you will make all things new, even the peaks and valleys of our hearts. Let us feel your presence this morning as we sing and pray and learn about your vision for us and for Mother Earth, our home. Amen.

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.
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Prayer for Inner Healing:

Creator, when we look out from the mountain top
it is easy to see the broader picture.

But too often the details of daily living block our view.

In the valleys of our lives we forget to look up and we lose sight of the possibilities.

We get weary and are tempted to give up on your vision for a better world.

Forgive us. Restore us, renew us, re-energize us.

Open our eyes, once again, to the beauty, the mystery and the possibilities around us. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Know that no matter how deep and dark the valleys may seem, God is making all things new, including you. Accept the Creator's abundance and offer it freely to others. You are loved, you are forgiven, and you are never alone.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music: You Gave Me a Mountain - soloist - Michael Marinovic

Theme Conversation: Lifting our Eyes

Hymn: Over My Head

MV 88

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

Help my lips to praise.

Help my hands to serve.

And help my heart to love. Amen.

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25 (Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)
(A new heaven and a new earth)

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth! The things of the past will not be remembered or come to mind! Be glad and rejoice forever and ever in what I create, because I now create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight! I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.

No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or old

people who do not live out their days. They die as mere youths who reach but a hundred years, and those who fall short of a hundred will be thought accursed.

At last they will live in the houses they build, and eat the fruit of the vineyard they plant. They will not build for another to inhabit; they will not plant for another to eat. For the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, and my chosen ones will enjoy the fruit of their labours. They will not labour in vain or bear children doomed to die; for they and their descendants are a people blessed by God. Even before they call upon me, I will answer; and while they speak, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed side by side; the lion will eat straw like an ox. Serpents will be content to crawl on the ground; they will not injure or destroy in all my holy mountain," says YHWH.

Psalm Reading: Psalm 121 (sung)

VU 842

Reader: Mary Lloyd

Scripture: Romans 8:28-39 (Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)
(All things work together for good. Nothing can separate us from the love of God)

We know that God makes everything work together for the good of those who love God and have been called according to God's purpose. They are the ones God chose long ago, predestined to share the image of the Only Begotten, in order that Christ might be the firstborn of many. Those God predestined have likewise been called; those God called have also been justified; and those God justified have, in turn, been glorified.

What should be our response? Simply this: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Since God did not spare the Only Begotten, but gave Christ up for the sake of us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will freely give us everything. Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? Since God is the One who justifies, who has the power to condemn? Only Christ Jesus, who died - or rather, was raised - and sits at the right hand of God, and who now intercedes for us!

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Trouble? Calamity? Persecution? Hunger? Nakedness? Danger? Violence? As scripture says, "For your sake, we're being killed all day long we're looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered" yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of God who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future,

neither heights nor depths - nor anything else in all creation - will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus.

Message: The View from the Top

Hymn: Before the Earth Had Yet Begun (tune VU 100) **VU 301**

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:**

God we hunger for a world where all will live with abundance, where we will no longer hurt or destroy each other, where we turn more toward celebration and less toward exploitation, when we meet our neighbours and enemies. Accept these gifts which we now offer. Bless them, fill them, use them so they might help in creating your vision for the world. 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:** Sound Over All Waters (Tune VU 223)

**Sound over all waters, reach out from all lands
the chorus of voices, the clasping of hands!
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
all speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one!**

**Sing bridal of nations, with chorals of love!
Sing out the war vulture and sing in the dove!
With glad jubilation sing hope for the world;
the great storm is ending, the clouds are all furled.**

**Sound trumpets of triumph for marches of peace,
east, west, north, and south, let the long quarrels cease!
Sing songs of great joy that the angels began,
give glory to children, to woman and man!
Hark! Joining the chorus, the heavens resound!
The old day is ending, a new day is crowned!
Rise, hope for the ages, arise like the sun,
all speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one!**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

You have a place in God's good creation.

We go forth to stand as tall as a mountain.

Your voice is unique and remarkable.

We go forth to sing out like a treetop bird.

Your hands can work for healing.

We go forth, and reach out like the rippling water.

Your heart reflects God's heart.

We go forth, to shine as bright as the sun above.

Go, knowing Holy Presence is with you - always.

Amen.

***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:

Holy One, you lift us up from low places and help us see more than we could see on our own. Free us from hopelessness. Rescue us from apathy. Inspire us with your vision of a time when abundant life will spill into every part of Earth, when justice flows down like a waterfall, and where new life takes the place of the things which no longer serve.

Amen

Partners in Prayer: Elora/Bethany Pastoral Charge

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Arthur

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford