



Melville United Church
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Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach
Minister of Music Team:
Church Secretary:
Custodian:
Chair of Church Council:
Pastoral Care
Chair of Pastoral Care
& Prayer Chain Captain
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September 30, 2018

**Melville United Church
Sunday, September 30, 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:

People of God, look around and see the faces of those we know and love:

**neighbours and friends, sisters and brothers—
a community of kindred hearts.**

People of God, look around and see the faces of those we hardly know:
**strangers, visitors, forgotten friends—
the ones in need of an outstretched hand.**

People of God, look around and see all the images of God assembled here.

**In me, in you, in each of us
God's spirit shines for all to see.**

People of God, come.

Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer:

We feel your welcome, gracious God, in this time of worship. You welcome young and old, all seeking peace, and all brimming over with energy. You welcome newcomers and long-time members; all seeking a familiar expression of praise ad prayer, and all seeking a startlingly new celebration of faith. You welcome us all, welcoming God. Amen

***Hymn:** Let Us Build A House

MV 1

Call to Confession:

Jesus taught us not to be anxious about our lives or about tomorrow. Are there anxieties that cause us to feel separated from the peace which Christ promises? Let us turn to God in prayer.

Prayer of Confession:

Jesus, who sat at the table with outcasts and sinners, we confess that too often our words and actions are not consistent with our beliefs. Often we ignore the needy, show indifference to the lonely, and reject those who seem different from us. Forgive us, we pray. Empower us to reach out in love and acceptance.

(We reflect in silence...)

Words of Assurance:

The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us.
The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us.
Be assured that God is with us even now, accepting, guiding, forgiving.
Thanks be to God! Amen!

First Reading: Luke 15:1-10 (NRSV)**The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who

repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Reader: Ruth Sproule

Psalm: Psalm 42 (Sung) **VU 766**

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32 (NRSV)

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to

his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: “Lost & Found”

***Hymn:** Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love **VU 574**

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: (Unison)**

Ever-present God, with this offering, we present also ourselves: all that we have been, all that we are, and all that we shall become, and our resolve to walk in your way. Accept us and our offering, we pray for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Celebrations and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Breathe On Me, Breath of God (verses 1 & 3)

VU 382

**Breath on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldest 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: Go to the World VU 420**

Blessing/Sending Forth:

As we go forth, let us give thanks and glory to God.
**Glory to God, whose power, working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
In the church, and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. 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. *(repeat)*

Postlude

Prayer for the Week:

Loving Shepherd, as I go about my day, guide me so that I don't get lost amidst the daily cares and trials of this world. Open my eyes to the hurt around me, so that I might be a beacon of hope for those who are wandering, lost and alone. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Alma United Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Barton Stone - Mount Hope

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Diane Maloney, Mark Andrews,
 Lorna Ziegler, Barb Gregory

Counters: Kaillie Rawn and Phil Brown