

Melville United Church
Sunday October 14, 2018
21st 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: (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:

Now is the time of reflection;

God's love will gently come home to us.

Now is the time of joyful praise;

we will not hold back our singing.

Now is the time for giving thanks;

our hearts overflow as we remember our Generous Creator.

Now is the time to recall and then release our anxieties,

God's peace will be our peace.

Come, let us worship God together.

Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation

VU 227

Opening Prayer:

We celebrate your love and presence, O God. May we trust that love and respond to your presence when your call cuts against our expectations or plans. Open us, then to your compassion that seeks not what is easy for us, but what is best. 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:

When I look over my life I see times
when I have been less than I want to be.

Holy Presence, open the eyes of my heart.

Let me look at myself and see what you see.

And seeing myself as you see me,

help me to understand who I may yet be.

Help me to forgive myself and, in love, begin life anew.

As you see, may I follow - with my love, with my all. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Friends, God's love is more profound than any of our resistance.

God's forgiveness goes deeper than our despair.

God is with us in all times and places.

Receive God's love. Receive God's forgiveness and be healed.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: I Can Feel You Near Me God

MV 48

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

Help my lips to praise.

Help my hands to serve.

And help my heart to love. Amen.

Scripture: Job 23:1-9, 16-17 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)

(*Job offers his complaint against God*)

Then Job replied:

I am still bitter in my complaint - God's hand is heavy, despite all my groaning. If only I knew where to find the Almighty, so I could approach the Judgement Seat! I would make my case to God, and expound my best arguments in my defense. But I would also benefit by hearing the answers, and get a grip on what is behind all this.

Would God get on a high horse in debating with me? No, God would give me the chance to state my case! There an upright person could make such a convincing case that I would be delivered forever from my Judge.

But if I go east, God isn't there; if I go west, I find nothing. When God

is working up north, I can see no one; when God turns south, I don't even catch a glimpse.

The Most High makes my heart sink, and makes my body shake in terror. Even so, I'm not silenced by the darkness nor by the deep gloom that covers my face.

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12-16 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)

(*The word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword*)

God's word is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It pierces so deeply that it divides even soul and spirit, bone and marrow, and is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Nothing is concealed from God; all lies bare and exposed before the eyes of the One to whom we have to render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens - Jesus, the Firstborn of God - let us hold fast to our profession of faith. For we don't have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet never sinned. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and favour, and find help in time of need.

Reader: Bob Foster

Scripture: Mark 10:17-31

As he was setting out on a journey, someone came running up and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: No killing. No committing adultery. No stealing. No bearing false witness. No defrauding. Honour your mother and your father."

The other replied, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my childhood."

Then Jesus looked at the person with love and said, "There is one thing more that you must do. Go and sell what you have and give it to those in need; you will then have treasure in heaven. After that, come and follow me."

At these words, the inquirer, who owned much property, became crestfallen and went away sadly.

Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, "How hard it is for rich people to enter the kingdom of God!"

The disciples could only marvel at these words. So Jesus repeated what he had said: "My children, how hard it is for rich people to enter the kingdom of God!" It is easier for a camel to pass through the

Needle's Eye gate than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at this and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible - but not for God. With God all things are possible."

Peter was moved to say to Jesus, "We have left everything to follow you!"

Jesus answered, "The truth is, there is no one who has left home, sisters or brothers, mother or father, children or fields for me and for the sake of the Gospel who won't receive a hundred times as much in this present age - as many homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, children and property, though not without persecution - and, in the age to come, everlasting life.

"Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Message: Finding God and Finding Our Way

Hymn: My Love Colours Outside the Lines

MV 138

Offering:

Offering Song: What Can I Do? MV 191

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**
(Repeat)

***Offertory Prayer:**

You are our home, Holy Oneness, and our security; knowing this, we are able to give back from the abundance that has been given to us. Bless the gifts and bless the givers. Bless the offerings of our hands, our hearts and our lives to be used to further your work in our world. Amen.

Joys & Concerns:

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Precious Lord, Take My Hand

VU 670

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Everything you have is a gift.

God intends you to be a gift to the world.

Go now, into God's world to be your best self.

**We will work for fairness,
we will pray for peace,
we will live out God's love. 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:

God of life, you call us to give of ourselves and to work towards your vision for Earth. Sometimes, we cannot imagine your possibilities. Sometimes, we value our possessions more than we value your love and your promises. Sometimes, we do not want to give up anything. Please help us to find our way towards living more faithfully as your followers. Challenge us to be willing to risk ourselves. Show us what we need to give up to be close to you. Amen.

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

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Caledonia

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Lynne Lamb, Bob Zirk,
Vivian and Havey Andrews

Counters:

Karen Smillie, David Lamb