

Melville United Church
Sunday October 7, 2018
Thanksgiving Sunday & World Wide Communion

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree



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
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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:

In times of trouble,
we give thanks.
In times of peace,
we give thanks.
In times of doubt,
we give thanks.
In times of certainty,
we give thanks.
In times of sowing,
we give thanks.
In times of harvest,
we give thanks.
At all times,
it is right to give our thanks and praise.
Come, let us worship God together.

Hymn: Come, Let Us Sing

VU 222

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, our words cannot describe the timeless beauty of your creation;

our images portray only glimpses of your grandeur;

our music will never embody the breadth of your emotion;

and our worship will always fall short of expressing all that you are.

In spite of all this,

may we never stop trying to offer our thanks and praise,

for all the wonders,

all the experiences,

all the great things that your love enables us to do.

With humble and grateful hearts we say - thank you, God. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Loving Creator, at all times, and in all circumstances,

we are called to give thanks.

Yet, when we are overwhelmed by despair, sadness and fear

we forget your goodness.

Forgive us when we become so self-absorbed

that we forget we are not the centre of the universe.

Remind us that it is possible

to find something to be thankful for even in the most trying times.

Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

O children of God, do not fear, be glad and rejoice. No matter our age we are still growing in faith and discovering the mystery of God; who has, who is and who will do great things in, with, and through us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music:

Theme Conversation: God Will Take Care of You (based on Matthew 6:25-33 -Lectionary Story Bible: Year B by Ralph Milton)

Hymn: Thank you, God

Thank you God, for giving us life.

Thank you God, for giving us life.

Thank you God, for giving us life.

Right where we are.

Alleluia, praise our God.

Alleluia, praise our God.

Alleluia, praise our God.

Right where we are.

Thank you God, for giving us love...

Thank you God, for giving us _____

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

Help my lips to praise.

Help my hands to serve.

And help my heart to love. Amen.

Psalm Reading: Psalm 113:1-9 (paraphrase by James Taylor- Everyday Psalms)

(Thank-you letters)

Dear God,

How can we thank you enough for your gifts to us?

**We will remember you with gratitude today,
and tomorrow, and all through the days to come.**

All day, every day, we will thank you.

You saw our situation. You noticed our needs.

You brightened our lives with your gifts.

You lifted us up to sit in your lap.

You made us feel loved and wanted.

You looked on us with love,

there is no one else like you;

you understand the deepest yearnings of our hearts.

We are wealthy beyond our wildest imaginings.

Last night our home was bitter and sad;

today it rings with laughter and joy

because you chose us as your family.

Reading: "A Closer Look at Thanksgiving" by Joyce Rupp

Message: Giving Thanks

Hymn: Come, You Thankful People, Come

VU 516

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:**

**On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we celebrate the bounty of this earth,
the love of family and friends, the grace that surrounds our lives, and
the opportunity to be a means of grace in the lives of others.
Through these offerings, may your love and grace be known here
and around the world. Amen.**

Joys & Concerns:

Communion Hymn: As We Gather at Your Table

VU 457

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The elements of communion today will be served by intinction. When the time comes you will be invited to come to the front, take a piece of bread from the communal tray then move to one of the cups on either side to dip and then consume your bread. Please take the time you need before returning to your seat. If you cannot come forward for whatever reason to receive the elements please indicate to an usher and you will be served in your seat.

Invitation:

As we come....

....are welcome here.

May God be with us.

God is here among us.

Let us open our hearts to God

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

We gather together at this time to celebrate worldwide communion.

We gather, seeking to be aware of our sisters, brothers, and siblings all around the world who join us this morning around Christ's table, for we are all formed in the Creator's image.

Some who gather will sing and pray, like us, in the English language - many other tongues will also be heard.

French, Spanish, Italian, Hebrew, Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Syrian, Portuguese, Chinese, Cree, Ojibwe, Mohawk - all these and many more. We are all one family as we gather.

May God's Spirit who encounters us here empower us to live in harmony with all people of Earth, and to love the world.

We are one with all who seek to be a community of compassion.

Grounded in the bread we break and the cup we share, we give thanks for what we receive at this table: wholeness and unifying peace, courage to break boundaries and strength to self-give.

We are one with love itself in the path that we follow and the life we are called to lead.

And so we gather with those of every time and every place to give our praise and glory as we raise our voices together to sing;

O holy, holy, holy God,

(MV 203)

O God of time and space.

**All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n
creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed in the One who comes
and bears your name always!**

Eternal God, we unite....

...we sing of the mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, (MV 204)

Christ will come again!

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

At this time we also remember

....as we sing together the prayer that he taught us...

The Lord's Prayer: (Sung)

VU 960

Words of Institution:

On the night before he died....

...as we experience your Spirit working amongst and through us.

Amen, amen, O Holy One! (MV 205)
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One,
Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

The body of Christ - the bread of life.

The blood of Christ - the cup of blessing.

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,

whoever comes to me will never be hungry:
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are now ready.

Sharing of the Elements:**Post Communion Prayer:**

Holy Presence, we give thanks that you have called your people from east and west, and north and south, to feast at your table. Once again we have been refreshed in Spirit. As we have shared together, we pray that we might be joined together as one people, united in sharing love and kindness throughout the world. Amen.

***Hymn:** Sent Forth by God's Blessing **VU 481**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Let us leave this time and place remembering God's goodness to us.

God's goodness is known in Creation, in our relationships, and in Jesus.

Let us commit ourselves to lives of thanksgiving and thanks-living.

We go with joy and gratitude in our hearts,
to live with purpose and with kindness.

Go to be God's people in all the places life calls you to be.

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, help us to give thanks as we wrestle with tough questions that have uncertain answers. Grant us the courage to ask what is on our hearts, and the loving-kindness to empathize with opinions we do not understand. Help us to appreciate the diversity that you have created - in us and in the world. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Belwood/Metz Pastoral Charge

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Bridgeport, Kitchener

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Mark Andrews, Isobel Glennie
 Linda and Norm Porritt

Counters:

David Gohn, Norm Porritt