

Melville United Church
Sunday, February 17, 2019
6th Sunday after Epiphany



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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** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship: *(based on Jeremiah 17:7-8)*

Bring your thirsty souls before God to be drenched in love and kindness.

Blessed are those who trust in God.

Like a tree planted by the water,
our lives shall be nourished by the love of God.

In this worship time, may our minds and hearts be stretched.

May God be like a stream of living water, nurturing our souls

Come, let us worship God together.

***Hymn:** Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet **VU 245**

Opening Prayer:

Fount of Blessings, Holy Presence, Giving Spirit,
fill our hearts with awareness
of the abundance we are blessed with.

Gather us together, Great Spirit,
and fill the hearts gathered here with goodness,
with creativity and your world of possibilities.

Gather and fill us, Great Spirit,
in these days of winter

with the robust lives you have in store for us.

Connect us to each other and to you,
the source of eternal blessing,

so that we may be a blessing in this world.

Amen.

February 17, 2019

Prayer of Confession:

God, you know our innermost being -

**the good and the bad,
the joyful and the sad.**

Only you can understand us fully.

Only you will love us still.

Help us to search our hearts,

and learn to be the love we wish to see in this world.

Show us again the gift of love that forgives,

**that we may we be a blessing
to ourselves and to others. Amen.**

Words of Affirmation:

God's trust is in you.

God is worthy of our trust.

You are the tree planted next to the stream.

Send out your roots and drink of the living water

**God provides all we need.
Thanks be to God. Amen!**

Ministry of Music: On Eagle's Wings

Time with the Younger Ones:

Hymn: If You're Happy and You Know It

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

Help my lips to praise.

Help my hands to serve.

Help my heart to love.

Amen

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:5-10 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(*Those who trust in God are like trees planted by water*)

YHWH says:

"Cursed are those who trust in human ways, who rely on things of the

flesh, whose hearts turn away from YHWH. They are like stunted vegetation in the desert with no hope in the future. It stands in stony wastes in the desert, an uninhabited land of salt.

Blessed are those who put their trust in God, with God for their hope. They are like a tree planted by the river that thrusts its roots toward the stream. When the heat comes it feels no heat; its leaves stay green. It is untroubled in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.

The human heart is more deceitful than anything else, it is perverse - who can understand it?

I, YHWH, search into the heart, I probe the mind, to give to each person what their actions and conduct deserve."

Words to Inspire: - by Richard Wagamese, *Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations*.

Me: I can't seem to get anywhere in my life.

Old Woman: Without Creator. Say what you said again, only add "without Creator" at the end.

Me: I can't seem to get anywhere in my life without Creator.

Old Woman: Did you hear that? Anytime you're telling yourself there's something you can't do, can't solve, can't change, can't accept, say it out loud and add "without Creator." Add the same words to all the things you CAN do as well.

Me: I can get anywhere in my life with Creator.

Old Woman: I think you're getting it, my boy.

Scripture: Luke 6:17-26 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(*The beatitudes upon the plain*)

Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon - people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said: "You who are poor are blessed, for the reign of God is yours. You who hunger now are blessed, for you will be filled. You who weep now are blessed, for you will laugh. You are blessed when people hate you, when they scorn and insult you and spurn your name as evil because of the Chosen One. On the day they do

so, rejoice and be glad: your reward will be great in heaven, for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.

But woe to you rich, for you are now receiving your comfort in full. Woe to you who are full, for you'll go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you'll weep in your grief. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in the same way.

Message: Blessings & Curses

***Hymn:** Seek Ye First the Kingdom **VU 356**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: "Pachelbel's Canon / Seek Ye First"

Organ/Piano duet - Joanna Wegman & Rob White

***Offering Hymn:** We Give You But Your Own **VU 542**

**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**Source of Life, we bring to you our gifts of love.
This is our time to thank you for all we have been given.
You are the source of all life and goodness.
Bless our gifts as we reach out to others through them. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Spirit of the Living God

**Spirit of the living God,
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love!**

Prayers of the People:

The Lord's Prayer:

***Hymn:** Jesus Calls Us **VU 562**

***Blessing:**

Whether we have blessings or woes,
each calls us into becoming our best self.
Each of you has a gift to give and a blessing to receive.

**Let us live in the full expression
of what it means to be blessed
in the world God created and blessed.**

May the strength of God go with you,
and may you be blessed with abundant peace.

Amen!

Parting Song: May God's Sheltering Wings **MV 214**

**May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
his cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in his love.** (Repeat)

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

Life-giving God, you are our giver, our gift, and our power to give. Let us feel you with us each day as we unwrap the wonder of your love and seek to be a blessing to the world. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Maranatha Christian Reformed, Fergus
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Richard Wright,
Karen Smillie

Counters: Karen Smillie and Richard Wright