

**Melville United Church
Sunday, February 3, 2019**

* *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:

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in the faith.

We come to celebrate God's presence,

and God's love expressed through Jesus Christ.

We come remembering Christ's life and ministry,

and the life we are called to live.

We come as a pilgrim people, searching for ways to live out our faith.

We come seeking the strength to carry on our journey.

Let us rejoice in God's gift to us!

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Wondrous God, you touch our lives with healing and with justice; new life is your Gift. We praise you for the Good News which is ours through Jesus Christ. May this time of worship nourish us with your promise of meaning and purpose. May we be empowered to carry your goodness into the coming week. We pray in Jesus' name, our Source and Saviour. Amen.

***Hymn: "A Song Must Rise" MV 142**

Prayer of Confession:

O God of mystery, we confess that, more than deep questions, we love easy answers; explaining away miracles, disarming the good news; we domesticate your wild ways.

Teach us to love our questions, O God. Teach us to struggle with faith.

Teach us to live with your holy mysteries.

(We reflect silently on those places in our lives where we need God's light)

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, and forgiving.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (*The Message*)**The Way of Love**

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

Psalm: Psalm 71 **VU 789**

Reader: Millie Cumming

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:22-30 (*The Message*)

All who were there, watching and listening, were surprised at how well [Jesus] spoke. But they also said, "Isn't this Joseph's son, the one we've known since he was a youngster?"

He answered, "I suppose you're going to quote the proverb, 'Doctor, go heal yourself. Do here in your hometown what we heard you did in Capernaum.' Well, let me tell you something: No prophet is ever welcomed in his hometown. Isn't it a fact that there were many widows in Israel at the time of Elijah during that three and a half years of drought when famine devastated the land, but the only widow to whom Elijah was sent was in Sarepta in Sidon? And there were many lepers in Israel at the time of the prophet Elisha but the only one cleansed was Naaman the Syrian."

That set everyone in the meeting place seething with anger. They threw him out, banishing him from the village, then took him to a mountain

cliff at the edge of the village to throw him to his doom, but he gave them the slip and was on his way.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: "Hate and Love"

***Hymn: "My Love Colours Outside the Lines" MV 138**

Offering:

Offering Song: "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 (Unison):**

Loving God, Mother of us all, may these gifts, given gratefully, be brought to life through the power of your creative Spirit. Multiply them and use them to bring the word and the touch of Jesus to your people in this place and throughout the world. Amen.

Prayer Prelude: "Spirit of the Living God, Verse 2" VU 376

**Spirit of the living Do, 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 hearts with love!**

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" VU 333**

Blessing/Sending Forth:

Go forth in love.

**The love of God is ours to share,
the peace of Christ is yours to extend,
the power of the Holy Spirit is ours to offer.**

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, her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love, and hold you in her love.**

Postlude

Prayer of the Week:

God of Love, as we go about our week, open our eyes to the little things and the big things that we can do for others, so that they know they are loved by us and you. Open our minds to questions, and our hearts to other ways of understanding, so that we might banish the hate and fear within us, and bring your kin-dom to all the world. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Baptist Church, Fergus

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Karen Smillie,
Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Karen Smillie and Larry Broome