



Melville United Church
Sunday, March 10, 2019
1st Sunday of Lent

First SUNDAY IN LENT



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lenten Spiritual Practice Challenge

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship: *(written by Fern Gibbard, Gathering. Lent/Easter 2019, pg 29. Used with permission.)*

We are gathered here on the first Sunday in Lent.

It is a season of mystery.

It marks the time of Jesus' journey in the wilderness.

Can we go with him on this journey?

Yes. Jesus invites us on this journey

to discover more about ourselves,

to discover more about his way,

and to discover how close Spirit is to us.

We are ready, let us go with Jesus on this journey.

Come, then, let us begin our journey.

***Hymn:** On Eagle's Wings (Palm 91)

VU 808

Prayer of Approach and Confession:

Jesus went into the desert wilderness, Holy Presence,
and we too find ourselves in desert times.

Travel with us as we take this journey;

stride next to us as we place one foot in front of the other toward a new day;

sit with us as we reach into ourselves

for the internal resources we need to be your people.

We know we have not always wanted
to follow where you lead us.

Though we want you to travel with us,

we have not always wanted to travel with you.

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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**we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and all creation will know your love.
Amen.**

Children's Prayer:

**Dear God,
Help my lips to praise.
Help my hands to serve.
Help my heart to love.
Amen.**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(*My ancestor was a wandering Aramean*)

Once you have entered the land that YHWH, your God, is giving to you as your inheritance, and you have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the first-fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land that YHWH, your God, is giving to you, and put them in a basket. Take them to the place which YHWH, your God, will choose as a dwelling place for God's Name and say to the priest in office at that time, "This day I declare to YHWH, our God, that I have come to the land YHWH swore to our ancestors to give us." The priest will then receive the basket from you and will set it in front of the altar of YHWH.

Then you will declare before YHWH, "My ancestor was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien. There they became a nation great, strong and numerous. When the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labour upon us, we cried to YHWH, the God of our ancestors who heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil and our oppression. YHWH brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; YHWH gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, I have brought now the first fruits of the products of the soil that you, O God, have given me." Then you must set them before YHWH, and bow down before YHWH. Then you all, along with the Levites, and the foreigners that live among you, will feast on all the good things that YHWH, your God, has given to you and your household.

Words to Inspire - Source unknown

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a conflict that goes on within every person. He said, "My son, the struggle is between two wolves. One is evil; it is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is good; it is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought about this for some time and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one we feed."

Reader: Susan Barth

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(*Jesus is tested in the desert*)

Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and she led him into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the tempter. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished.

The tempter said to Jesus, "If you are God's Own, command this stone to turn into bread. Jesus answered, "Scripture has it, 'We don't live on bread alone.'"

Then the tempter took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. The tempter said, "I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish. Prostrate yourself in homage before me, and it will all be yours."

In reply, Jesus said, "Scripture has it: 'You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.'"

Then the tempter led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said, "If you are God's Own, throw yourself down from here, for scripture has it, 'God will tell the angels to take care of you; with their hands they'll support you, that you may never stumble on a stone.'"

Jesus said to the tempter in reply, "It also says, 'Do not put God to the test.'"

When the tempter had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The tempter awaited another opportunity.

Moderator's Lenten Message:**Message: "Feeding the Good Wolf"***(based on comments by Tom Stella, CPR for the Soul)****Hymn:** Jesus, Tempted in the Desert VU 115**Offering:*****Offering Hymn:** God of All Good *(verse 1)* VU 539 *(Tune 378)*

**God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,
use them your holy purpose to fulfil;
tokens of love and pledges brought anew
that our whole life is offered to your will.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**We give, Great Mystery, as we remember a vulnerable young man
named Jesus who refused to compromise with evil. He gave away
everything, even his life. And so we give, following his example of
acceptance and compassion, his concern for wholeness, and his desire
to bring equality to an unjust world. May our offerings contribute to
his cause of peace and love. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:**Prayer Prelude:** Where Two or Three Are Gathered MV 14

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there. I am there.
Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there. I am there.**

Prayers of the People:**The Lord's Prayer:** *(Sung)* VU 959***Hymn:** O Jesus, I Have Promised VU 120***Blessing:**

Let us journey together into this desert time.

Let us journey with courage as the Israelites did.

Let us journey in confidence knowing we do not travel alone.

Let us journey with the song of the psalmist on our lips.

Go with the God who will raise you up on eagles wings.

The God who is with you always!

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:**

Journey with us, O God, through this day, through this season. Lead us
into that land where we know the fullness of your justice and grace.
May we follow your leading and draw strength from your presence.
Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora Road Christian Fellowship**Western Ontario Waterways:** Elora-Bethany Pastoral Charge**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Mary Lloyd,
Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Mary Lloyd and Larry Broome