



Melville United Church
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Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach

Minister of Music Team:

Church Secretary:

Custodian:

Chair of Church Council:

Pastoral Care

Chair of Pastoral Care

& Prayer Chain Captain

Secretary's Office hours:

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Pastoral Care Numbers

Rev. Marion Loree

Rob White, Suzanne Flewelling

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Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree

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8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.

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Melville United Church
Sunday, March 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 (*based on Psalm 99*):

God reigns, and the peoples tremble,

God sits enthroned, and the earth quakes.

Our God is exalted over all the earth.

**Let us all praise God's great and awesome name,
for God is mighty, and delights in justice.**

God has determined what is fair,

and done what is just and right.

Moses and Aaron were among God's priests,

Miriam among those who called on God's name,

They called to God, and God answered.

God spoke to them in the pillar of cloud,

they kept God's teachings and the law that God gave us.

God answers us as God answered them,

for our God is a forgiving God.

Let us proclaim the greatness of God in our worship today,

for God, our God, is the Holy One.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

God of all peoples, all times, and all places, we come here this morning seeking you, but aware that the encounter may frighten us and that we will be changed. This morning we seek the courage to live into that change, and to answer your call so that your peace and justice might encompass the whole earth. Amen.

***Hymn: “Take Time to Be Holy” VU 672**

Prayer of Confession:

God of Open Eyes, so often, we are ignorant of your presence. Sometimes, we refuse to see you, either in other people or in the workings of the world. Sometimes, we are so overcome with fear or sorrow that we cannot find you anywhere. Open our eyes, God. Heal our hurts, forgive the hurts we have caused others. Help us move towards new life in you, that we might ever serve you.

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

Words of Assurance:

The Bible tells us that God is love; that God understands our human failings, and that God forgives.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Commissioning of Sarah Schmidt-McQuillan

(- our 2019 TCOW student)

This coming Friday, March 8th, Sarah will be flying to Colombia to take part in a TCOW (Two Countries – One World) service and learning experience for which she has been preparing all year with your support. Sarah will be a part of a delegation of 2 leaders and 12 United Church Youth from Guelph, KW, Cambridge, Elora, Belwood and Fergus. This is the second time TCOW has been hosted by the United Methodist Church of Colombia, our partners in mission through the United Church Mission and Service Fund. Students will be returning to the small community of Brises del Mar, north and east of the city of Cartagena, where they will be sharing with local youth, leading bible school activities and assisting in the construction of a local church. This trip is also building toward an exchange in 2020 when Colombian youth will

be hosted back here in Canada through the People in Partnership program of our national United Church. Each of us as members of this congregation will be eager to learn from the experiences that Sarah will share with us upon return, drawing us inevitably closer to the needs and concerns of our neighbours to the South.

Sarah, together we commission you to go into the world with a daring and tender love. May God's spirit open you to the wisdom of those you will meet, deepen your sensitivity to new realities, and give you strength for the challenges you will meet.

I go to meet and to serve as I am called and led.

We give thanks for the vision that has inspired this trip and your life. We praise God for all those who have made this trip possible through their generosity. We ask God to bless and protect you as you travel and experience community with our sisters and brothers in Colombia.

Bless the conversations, the service to others, the struggles and triumphs, the pains and joys, that in all these things your presence may be felt.

Bless our whole community as we uphold each other in prayer until we are reunited again in worship.

In all times and places, may you know the powerful presence of God's Spirit as your guide. We are not alone. Nothing can separate us in God's love.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light" MV 211

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 34:29-35 (NRSV)**The Shining Face of Moses**

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 (NRSV)

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-36

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: "Face to Face With God"

***Hymn: "Oh a Song Must Rise" MV 142**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Spirit Sings - Here I Am Lord

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):**

**God of Abundant Gifts, we thank and praise you for all we have
 been given. Take this portion of your gifts to us, bless it and use
 it to bring peace, justice and plenty to all in our world. Amen.**

Prayer Prelude: “Spirit of the Living God, Verse 2” VU 376
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 hearts with love!

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn: “Lead On, O Cloud of Presence” VU 421**

Blessing/Sending Forth:

**Go out into the world, with the brightness of God’s glory shining
 in your faces.**

**We will go, taking the Good News of God’s love to all the world.
 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:

Wake us up, God, to the glory of your presence that is in every living thing. Help us to reflect that glory so that others may see You through us. Amen.

Partners in Prayer:

Grace Christian Fellowship, Fergus

Prayer Tree Captain:

Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Mark Andrews, Isobel Glennie,
Karen Smillie

Counters:

Kaillie Rawn and Karen Smillie