



Fifth

SUNDAY

IN

LENT

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	
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Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
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January 6, 2019

**Melville United Church
Sunday, April 7, 2019
5th Sunday in Lent**

** 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:

Come, Beloved, for the Great Giver has restored your fortunes –

Let us tell of abundance as we shout with joy!

Come, Growers, for the Creator has brought up rivers in the desert –

Let us declare our praise as we plant our fields!

Come, Pilgrims, for the Righteous One has set a path through the sea –

Let us rejoice as we make our journey!

Come, People of God, for the Holy One has done great things for us!

Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer:

**Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness
and water the desert. Help us to recognize your hand
working miracles beyond our imagining.**

**Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing,
so that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love for all,
and its presence in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***Hymn: “O God, How We Have Wandered” VU 112**

Prayer of Confession:

**We confess, Anointed One, that we excuse ourselves from reaching
out to those who need your care. We take your words – that there will**

always be unmet needs – as a reason not to try to meet the needs we can. Forgive us, and help us to change. Renew our determination to live as faithful followers, faithful disciples, faithful Christians. Help us to work with you for the well-being of your creation, that the fortunes of all your peoples may be restored. Amen.

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

Words of Assurance:

We, too, are a part of the Way-Maker's will for restoration. We are called, through Christ Jesus, to strive for restoration, but we are not called to do this work alone.

The One who has made a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, will surely equip us for all we are asked to do in Christ's name. God will empower us to attain all the potential God has placed within us.

Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music:

A Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Hymn: "If Our God Had Simply Saved Us" VU 131
(Verses 1, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15)

Epistle Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14 (NRSV)

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish,

in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 126

VU 850

Gospel Reading: John 12:1-8 (NRSV)

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: "Trash and Treasure"

***Hymn: "Spirit, Open My Heart"**

MV 79

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 (Unison):**

Extravagant God,
lavishing your love on our poverty of heart:
inspire us to give with generosity,
to love life so that we may find it again,
and thus the world will be filled
with the fragrance of your love;
through Jesus Christ, who offers himself for us. Amen.

Lenten Spiritual Practice Challenge:

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:

Response at the sound of the chime:

Forgive us and show us the way home.

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn: "May the God of Hope Go with Us" VU 424**

Blessing/Sending Forth:

Go now in peace.

God has done great things for us, and we rejoice.

Let us go forth from this place to do great things in the name of Christ,
whose call leads us to restoration and new life.

Amen!

***Parting Song** May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You
May the good Lord bless and keep you,
Whether near or far away.
May you find that long awaited,
Golden day today.

May your troubles all be small ones,
And your fortune ten times ten.
May the good Lord bless and keep you,
'Til we meet again.

May you walk with sunlight shining,
And a blue bird in every tree.
May there be a silver lining,
Back of every cloud you see.

Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows,
Never mind what might have been.
May the good Lord bless and keep you,
'Till we meet again.

May you long recall the rainbows,
Then you'll soon forget the rain.
May the warm and tender memories,
Be the ones that will remain.

May your heart be tuned to music,
That will cheer the hearts of men.
May the good Lord bless and keep you,
"till we meet again.
May the good Lord bless and keep you
"till we meet,
"till we meet again, "till we meet again.

Postlude

Prayer of the Week: God, as we go about our day, let us recognize your face in the face of those we meet. If we feel puffed up with our own goodness, remind us that you alone are good. If we feel worthless and down, remind us that we are all made in your image and you love us extravagantly and without conditions. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. Andrews's Presbyterian Church

Western Ontario Waterways: Trinity Centennial: Rosemont

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Joan and John Cuming

Counters: Kaillie Rawn and Norm Porritt