



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
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Melville United Church
 6th Sunday of Easter
 Sunday May 26th, 2019

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Brown

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time: Where No One Stands Alone, Ripple

Call to worship:

In the springtime of the year, our world is alive with the glory of God.

But like the disciples who went back to their fishing nets—sometimes we wonder.

After the Easter music has died away and we are faced with the challenges of a new day –sometimes we wonder ...

We wonder whether we have the faith to keep going.

The way ahead seems unclear and so much is changing all the time.

Sometimes we wonder whether we have the imagination to keep hoping.

When the pain and struggles of our hurting world and of our own lives catch at our throats and draw us into despair ...

Then into our weariness – new life is breathed.

Then into our helplessness - fresh visions are poured.

And the Light of God's face shines upon us.

And the Peace of Christ reconnects us.

And the Wonders of Spirit work through us.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn VU 222 Come Let us Sing

Gathering Prayer:

Living Spirit, outside the world rushes on. For many people Easter has come and gone. A few chocolate eggs may linger, but not many.

Outside, the world has turned its eyes from Easter, moving on to the next big event; the long weekend—end of school—the next long

weekend. But here in this place, we find sanctuary from the rushing world. Here, we are gifted with the time to linger and reflect, to pause and remember the gifts of life you place in our hands. Easter Spirit help us to be present in this sacred space as we celebrate the love we know through you and each other. Amen.

Ministry of Music: God Gave Us Green Field
- Words and Music by Emi Embrey

Time with the Children and the Young at Heart

Prayer

Dear God,

**Help our lips to praise,
Help our hands to serve,
Help our hearts to love.
Amen**

Hymn God of the Bible MV 28

Scripture Readings:

Revelation 22:1-5

The River of Life

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Responsive Reading Psalm 67 VU 786

Reader: Helen Lacroix

Gospel John 14:23-29

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

Response: The Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Sermon: The Gifts of Life

Hymn: VU 626 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Precious Mem'ries - J.B.F. Wright

Offering Song: "What Can I Do?" **MV 191**

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Offering Prayer

Creator God, you flower the gardens for us and make green the wastelands. The mountains burst forth with streams of water and the fields are filled with your bounty. We lift our hearts in thanksgiving for all gifts of life. In service to the world and each other, we now dedicate this offering in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer Prelude: God, Listen to Your Children Praying VU 400

**God, listen to your children praying,
 God, send your Spirit in this place;
 God, listen to your children praying,
 Send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

Hymn VU 642 Be Thou My Vision

Commissioning

With the gifts of life that God places in our hands, we are called to be the church.

May it be true, through the love of God, the peace of Christ and the power of the Spirit.

Amen

***Parting Song** "Melville Benediction"

Postlude: Lean on Me - Words and Music by Bill Withers

Prayer of the Week (*A Prayer for the Journey VU# 648*)

God of the Way, you are the road we travel, and the sign we follow. You are bread for the journey, and the wine of arrival.

Guide us as we follow in your way, holding on to each other, reaching out to your beloved world. And when we stray, seek us out and find us, set our feet on the path again, and lead us safely home. In the name of Jesus, our Companion, we pray. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Grace Christian Fellowship, Fergus
Western Ontario Waterways: Lion's Head-Pike Bay
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Vivian Andrews, Karen Smillie,
Mark Andrews

Counters: Kaillie Rawn and Phil Brown