



Melville United Church
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781
Ministry Team

**Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care
& Outreach**

Faith Formation & Youth

Minister of Music Team:

Church Secretary (summer):

Custodian:

Chair of Church Council:

Pastoral Care

**Chair of Pastoral Care
& Prayer Chain Captain**

Office summer hours:

E-Mail:

Web Site:

Pastoral Care Numbers

Rev. Marion Loree

Martha Duncan

Rob White, Suzanne Flewelling

Heather Watson

Robert Mitchell

Allan Hons

Rev. Marion Loree

Alison Rainford

Alison Rainford

9:00 am - 1:00 pm Tuesday

9:00am – 2:00 pm Thurs & Fri

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Melville United Church
11th after Pentecost
Sunday August 25th, 2019

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Noreen Ueberer

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the Indigenous peoples with whom Treaty 4 - also known as the Haldimand Tract - was signed and the territory wherein our church resides, and we acknowledge our responsibilities as treaty members.

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light: We light the Christ candle to remind us that God is here in the midst of us.

Prelude & Centring Time: Let us take a moment to prepare ourselves for worship.

Call to worship:

We come from scattered lives to this sanctuary, seeking unity in the Spirit, seeking the grace of Christ, seeking the peace of God.

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, we pray for your blessing on the Church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find courage, and the anxious be calmed. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful be comforted. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation, and the young be inspired, in Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

***Hymn:** We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky **MV 143**

Invitation to Confession:

Sometimes we hurt our friends. Sometimes we hurt ourselves. Sometimes we hurt God. Our prayer of confession is a chance to say "We're sorry."

Prayer of Confession:

O God, we ask for living water, but dip our buckets in old wells.
We offer dried crusts and stale water, while complaining that no
one will come to our banquet. Forgive us, O God, for our stale
words, stale prayers, stale dreams.

Forgive us, O God, for turning up our noses at your water, cool and
crisp, that brings new life.

*(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.

A Time for the Young and Young at Heart: "I'm hungry!"

***Hymn:** Oh, A Song Must Rise MV 142

In scriptures God speaks to each of us. Listen for the voice of God.

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 58:9-14 (MSG)

⁶⁻⁹ "This is the kind of fast day I'm after:
to break the chains of injustice,
get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
free the oppressed, cancel debts.
What I'm interested in seeing you do is:
sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.
Do this and the lights will turn on,
and your lives will turn around at once.
Your righteousness will pave your way.
The GOD of glory will secure your passage.
Then when you pray, GOD will answer.
You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.'

A Full Life in the Emptiest of Places

⁹⁻¹² “If you get rid of unfair practices,
quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people’s sins,
If you are generous with the hungry
and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,
Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness,
your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.
I will always show you where to go.
I’ll give you a full life in the emptiest of places —
firm muscles, strong bones.
You’ll be like a well-watered garden,
a gurgling spring that never runs dry.
You’ll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,
rebuild the foundations from out of your past.
You’ll be known as those who can fix anything,
restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate,
make the community livable again.

¹³⁻¹⁴ “If you watch your step on the Sabbath
and don’t use my holy day for personal advantage,
If you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy,
GOD’s holy day as a celebration,
If you honor it by refusing ‘business as usual,’
making money, running here and there —
Then you’ll be free to enjoy GOD!
Oh, I’ll make you ride high and soar above it all.
I’ll make you feast on the inheritance of your ancestor Jacob.”
Yes! GOD says so!

Special Music:

Christian Scriptures: Hebrews 12:18-29 (MSG)

An Unshakable Kingdom

¹⁸⁻²¹ Unlike your ancestors, you didn’t come to Mount Sinai—all that volcanic blaze and earthshaking rumble—to hear God speak. The earsplitting words and soul-shaking message terrified them and they begged him to stop. When they heard the words—“If an animal touches

the Mountain, it's as good as dead"—they were afraid to move. Even Moses was terrified.

²²⁻²⁴ No, that's not your experience at all. You've come to Mount Zion, the city where the living God resides. The invisible Jerusalem is populated by throngs of festive angels and Christian citizens. It is the city where God is Judge, with judgments that make us just. You've come to Jesus, who presents us with a new covenant, a fresh charter from God. He is the Mediator of this covenant. The murder of Jesus, unlike Abel's—a homicide that cried out for vengeance—became a proclamation of grace.

²⁵⁻²⁷ So don't turn a deaf ear to these gracious words. If those who ignored earthly warnings didn't get away with it, what will happen to us if we turn our backs on heavenly warnings? His voice that time shook the earth to its foundations; this time—he's told us this quite plainly—he'll also rock the heavens: "One last shaking, from top to bottom, stem to stern." The phrase "one last shaking" means a thorough housecleaning, getting rid of all the historical and religious junk so that the unshakable essentials stand clear and uncluttered.

²⁸⁻²⁹ Do you see what we've got? An unshakable kingdom! And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God. For God is not an indifferent bystander. He's actively cleaning house, torching all that needs to burn, and he won't quit until it's all cleansed. God himself is Fire! Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: "Unshakable Essentials"

***Hymn:** God Is My Shepherd **VU 748**

Offering: Let us gather our gifts together and bring them to God as an offering of gratitude and praise!

Offering Hymn: 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.

(Repeat)

***Offertory Prayer:**

Ever-present God, with this offering, we present also ourselves: all that we have been, all that we are, and all that we shall become, and our resolve to walk in your way. Accept us and our offering, we pray for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Send Your Holy Spirit VU 370
Send your Holy spirit on your gathered people,
merciful and loving God, hear us, as we pray.
(Repeat)

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn: One More Step Along the World I Go VU 639**

Sending Forth and Blessing:

***Parting Song: Dance With the Spirit MV 156**
Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
Walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.
(Repeat)

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

Ever-present God, this day enfolds us and surrounds us: be in our speaking and in our thinking; be in our life and on our lips; be in our hearts and in our souls, today and forever. Amen.

Suggested Readings:

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Isaiah 58-9b-14; Psalm 71:1-6; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Mennonite Church

Western Ontario Waterways: St. John's: Creemore

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Lynne Lamb, Diane Maloney and Mark Andrews

Counters: Lynne Lamb and Larry Broome