

**Melville United Church  
October 13, 2019  
Thanksgiving Sunday**

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*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

*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.*

**Prelude**

**Introit:** Lord, We Come Together Here

-Williams, Lantz

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Joys, Concerns & God Moments/Moments of Awe**

**Sharing the Light**

We light a candle

**in the name of the God who creates life,  
in the name of the Christ Presence who loves life,  
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.**

**Centering words:** -Meister Eckhart

If the only prayer you ever said was 'Thank you' that would suffice.

**\*Gathering Song:** Come, You Thankful People, Come **VU 516**

**Time with the Younger Ones:** Thank you tree

**Song:** Thank you God

**1. Thank you, God, for giving us life.**

**Thank you, God, for giving us life.**

**Thank you, God, for giving us life.**

**Right where we are.**

**Alleluia, praise our God.**

**Alleluia, praise our God.**

**Alleluia, praise our God.**

**Right where we are.**

**2. Thank you, God, for giving us love...**

**3, 4... Thank you, God, for giving us \_\_\_\_...**

**Children's Prayer:**

**Call to Worship:**

Our lives are a blessing

**and so we give thanks.**

Our loved ones are a blessing

**and so we give thanks.**

This earth is a blessing

**and so we give thanks.**

Each meal we enjoy is a blessing

**and so we give thanks.**

Every moment we share, is a blessing.

**and so we give thanks**

So, in thanksgiving, let us worship God together.

**Opening Prayer:**

**Ground of All Being, Sower of Grace, remind us that your harvest is plentiful even when the labourers seem few. As we gather in thanksgiving with our families, remind us we can reap the constant promise that each of us belongs to your family. In Christ, we are all siblings, blessed and called to share in your love, your justice, and your grace. Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

For the times our harvests have been abundant,  
but our giving was scarce,

**forgive us, O God.**

For the times we have sown discontent and malice,

**forgive us, O God.**

For the times we have reaped your love  
but hoarded it away,

**forgive us, O God.**

For the times we have not trusted you  
to provide and sustain,

**forgive us, O God.**

For the times we have been blind  
to the miracles in our midst,

**forgive us, O God. Amen.**

**Words of Affirmation:**

We have all that we need:

**the breath of the Spirit,**

**the peace of Christ,**

**and the promise of God's love.**

God also provides loving forgiveness

and the chance to begin again, again and again.

**Thanks be to the Creator of abundant blessings!**

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Give thanks for everything)

We urge you, sisters and brothers, to warn the idlers, cheer up the fainthearted, support the weak, and be patient with everyone. Make sure that no one repays one evil with another. Always seek what is good for each other - and for all people.

Rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks for everything - for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:15-17 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)  
(Sing gratefully to God)

Let Christ's peace reign in your hearts since, as members of one body, you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. Instruct and admonish one another wisely. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns and songs of the Spirit. And whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of Jesus our Saviour, giving thanks to God through Christ.

**Reading:** When -Joyce Rupp

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:4-7 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)  
(Rejoice always)

Rejoice in the Saviour always! I say it again: Rejoice! Let everyone see your forbearing spirit. Our Saviour is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds; instead, present your needs to God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**Reflection:** Discover the Treasures -Joyce Rupp

**Hymn:** Rejoice in the Lord Always **VU 249**

**Offering:**

**\*Offering Hymn:** For the Gift of Creation **VU 538**

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,  
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,  
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.  
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**God of harvests - help us to honestly name the source of our blessings. Guide us as we make an accounting of our harvests, so we may bring first fruits of gratitude back to you in joy. For these offerings we bring, give us wisdom as we seek to apply them to the work you desire us to be about. Amen.**

**Prayer Prelude:** Mother and God **VU 280**

**Mother and God, to you we sing;  
wide is your womb, warm is your wing.  
In you we live, move and are fed  
sweet flowing milk, life giving bread.  
Mother and God, to you we bring  
all broken hearts, all broken wings.**

**Prayers of the People:**

**\*Hymn:** We Plough the Fields **VU 520**

**\*Blessing:** A Thanksgiving Blessing -Joyce Rupp

**Parting Song:** Every Day is a Day of Thanksgiving **MV 185**

**Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.  
God you've been so good to me.  
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.  
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.  
I will glorify you, O my God, today!**

**You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.  
You opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.  
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.  
I will glorify you, O my God, today!**

**Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.**

October 13, 2019

**God you've been so good to me.  
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.  
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.  
I will glorify you, O my God, today!**

**Postlude:**

**Prayer of the Week:**

Holy Presence, Generous God, at this time of Thanksgiving, we celebrate the bounty of this earth, the love of family and friends, the grace that surrounds our lives, and the opportunity to be a means of grace in the lives of others. May your love and grace be known through us and our living. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Elora/Bethany Pastoral Charge (United)

**Western Ontario Waterways:** Egmondville

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Graeme Chalmers, Mark Andrews, Lynne Lamb,  
Larry Broome

**Counters:** Lynne Lamb and Larry Broome