



Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
October 27, 2019
20th Sunday after Pentecost

** 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

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: -Sri Daya Mata- *Inter the Quiet Heart*

We don't have to be perfect before God will love us.
God loves us now, in spite of all our faults and weaknesses.

***Gathering Song:** Holy Spirit, Hear Us **VU 377**

Time with the Younger Ones: Earning God's Love

Song: Jesus Loves Me **VU 365**

Children's Prayer:

October 27, 2019

Call to Worship:

We come into community
ready for Spirit's presence among us.

**May our hearts and minds
be open to receive in a new way.**

We come into this sacred space
ready to worship.

**May our hearts and minds
be open to receive in a new way.**

We come into a place of challenge and grace
ready to learn.

**May our hearts and minds
be open to receive in a new way.**

Come, let us worship together.

Opening Prayer:

Holy Oneness, we come into this place with singing.

We come, each one and all.

We come with unique strengths and weaknesses;
together your children.

We give thanks for creation.

We give thanks for brothers and sisters in faith.

Forgiving God,

**every minute of every day the world asks us
to compare ourselves to other people.**

We confess that we often give in to this temptation,
because it makes us feel better than others.

We ask your forgiveness,

**When we trumpet our own greatness,
show us the path that leads to humility.**

May we remember always that your Spirit,
resides deep in the heart of each person and all peoples.
Amen.

Words of Assurance:

God encourages us to reflect on our life-style
and attitudes that we don't get above ourselves.

**We will keep the simple way of Jesus before us and follow
him faithfully.**

Know that God's pardon and peace are yours.

Thanks be to God.

Ministry of Music: River in Judea -Jack Feldman/John Leavitt/Linda
Marcus Performed by Autumn Tones with the Red Suspenders.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18a (The Inclusive Bible: The First
Egalitarian Edition)

(I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race)

As for me, my life is already being poured out like a libation. The
time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight; I have
finished the race; I have kept the faith. Now a laurel wreath awaits
me; on that day our God, the just Judge, will award it to me - and
not only to me, but to all who have longed for Christ's appearing.

Christ stood by my side and gave me strength, so that through
me the proclamation might be completed and all the nations might
hear the Gospel. That's how I was saved from the lion's jaws.
Christ will continue to rescue me from all attempts to do me harm,
and will bring me safe to the higher realm.

Words to Ponder: Psalm 65 (A paraphrase by James Taylor - Every day
Psalms)

(Thanksgiving)

We can't put it off any longer, God.

**We come crawling to you,
because we have all fallen short of your expectations.**

We have all missed the mark.

But you have not held our failures against us.

We stumbled, and you picked us up;

we were sinking, and you helped us swim.

You treat us with honour and respect.

You make us welcome.

It is more than we dare ask, more than we could ever expect.

We have no right to such kindness.

You are the creator of the world.

You push mountains into ranges;

you calm the raging oceans;

you spin the earth on its axis.

Before you, we are as insignificant as ants,

parading our puny armies.

If you stamp your feet, we will be squashed.

We boast of our science and technology,

but by ourselves we cannot make a single seed sprout;

we cannot shape a single raindrop.

We destroy, but only you bring life.

Through the cycle of the seasons, with reckless generosity,

you share the wealth of the earth.

As tiny drops of dew gather into rushing streams,

so our small thoughts gather into a gush of gratitude.

The whole world celebrates your goodness.

Like dolphins dancing through the waves,

like antelope prancing through long grass,

the whole earth leaps in exuberant gratitude.

Scripture: Luke 18:9-14 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

(The Pharisee and the tax collector go to pray)

Jesus spoke this parable addressed to those who believed in their own self-righteousness while holding everyone else in contempt. "Two people went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed like this: 'I give you thanks, O God, that I'm not like others - greedy,

crooked, adulterous - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on everything I earn.'

"The other one, however, kept a distance, not even daring to look up to heaven. In real humility, all the tax collector said was, 'O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' Believe me, the tax collector went home from the Temple right with God, while the Pharisee didn't. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, while those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Reader: Allan Hons

Message: Is God Religious?

Hymn: Fight the Good Fight

VU 674 (tune 158)

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Point of Light -Thom Schuyler/Don Schlitz/Roger Emerson

***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:**

Generous God, you have blessed us beyond measure.

Help us to remember people in need, and be willing to

share. When we are the ones in need, help us to be

willing to receive because giving and receiving are two

aspects of one thing: of love. Let us love and be loved,

and let us do it with your blessing we pray. 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:

Lord's Prayer:

***Hymn:** Go to the World **VU 420**

***Blessing:**

God surprises us with love that seeks and embraces.

God's graceful welcome is so affirming that it is life-changing.

May we embrace this welcoming Spirit with gratitude and joy,
so that we too may live with such love.

Go now, knowing that the love of God,
the peace of Christ
the companionship of the Holy Spirit
is with you - always.

Amen.

Parting Song: Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith steadfast strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there around, within, above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

Creator, your presence surrounds us, but we do not always recognize it. Sometimes we see it in a grand moment. Other times, your presence is in the small moments of the day. This day, however, help us to recognize that your presence is with us and in us always. Help us to see your presence in the places we rarely look for it and help us to be immersed deeply in those spaces.
Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Belwood/Metz Pastoral Charge (United)

Western Ontario Waterways: Christ the King: Kitchener

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Lynne Lamb, Karen Smillie,
Graeme Chalmers

Counters: Karen Smillie and Mary Lloyd