

**Melville United Church
November 10, 2019
Remembrance Sunday**

** 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

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

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: Isaiah 2:4 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

God will judge between the nations and render decisions for many countries. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation will not raise the sword against another, and never again will they train for war.

Service of Remembrance

Please remain standing as you are able throughout the service of Remembrance.

*Hymn: O Canada

VU 524

*Poem: A Sacred Trust

*Roll Call:

*Last Post:

*Silence:

*Rouse:

*Prayer:

*Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past (verses 1,3,5,6)

VU 806

Children's Prayer:

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

Call to Worship: *(by Micol Cottrell in Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2013)*

There was a dream.

**Wolves and sheep together,
nations at peace,
weapons of war turned into tools of harvest.**

There was a dream,

**The vulnerable supported
poverty and injustice broken
the aching made whole.**

And this dream of God became flesh
**on the tongues of the prophets
in the dreams of the people
in the body of Christ.**

And this dream of God becomes flesh
**in you and in me
as we follow in God's holy way
and live the love of Jesus.**

Opening Prayer:

Eternal God,

whose image lies in the hearts of all of us,
we live among peoples

**whose languages are different from our own,
whose faiths are foreign to us,
whose ways we fail to understand.**

Help us to remember

**that you embrace all people with your love,
that all religion is a response to you,
that the yearnings of other hearts
are much like our own, and are known to you.**

Help us to recognize you

**in words of truth, things of beauty,
and actions of love about us.**

We pray in the name of the One who calls us

to be neighbour and friend. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Peace is a playground full of laughter and games.

Peace is a park for reading and games.

Peace is a family full of respect and good listening.

Peace is a gift from God, the presence of the Holy One.

We love peace, but sometimes we love winning more, O God.

We love peace, but sometimes forget what we need to do.

We love peace, but we give in to our feelings of anger or fear.

When we are willing to fight or be mean, forgive us.

When others are mean or want to fight,

help us to forgive them. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Jesus said "I will not leave you alone." And God said "My spirit abides among you; do not fear." Hear these words and take them to heart for they are true.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music: Danny Boy

Scripture: John 14:25-27 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

(My peace I leave with you)

This much have I said to you while still with you; but the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom Abba God will send in my name, will instruct you in everything and she will remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; but the kind of peace I give you is not like the world's peace. Don't let your hearts be distressed; don't be fearful.

Words to Ponder: Psalm 98 - (paraphrase by James Taylor - *Everyday Psalms*)

(The Great Dance of Creation)

How different God's creation is from human society.

The clamor of human conflict creates a cacophony.

Like orchestras competing with their conductor, dysfunctional families sacrifice their favorite songs, and nations murder each other's melodies.

But God plays other tunes.

The colors of nature never clash with each other.

In a garden, every shade of leaf and flower joins a joyous chorus;

bare branch and bonsai provide a counterpoint to balance the beauty of blossoms.

In the depths of the jungle,

the sounds of termite and tiger weave a wondrous harmony; eerie descants echo through the ocean's deeps.

The pulse of life throbs in every cell,

and the seasons swell and ebb away.

From the farthest galaxy to the tiniest atom,

all creation dances to honor its choreographer.

God applauds each performance.

But God detects the discords, too.

And God does not applaud.

Reader: Edith Hons

Scripture: Joshua 24:1-3a,14-15, 24-27 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

(As for me and my household, we will serve God)

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, and called a summit of the elders, leaders, judges, and officials of Israel. Once they presented themselves before God, Joshua said to the whole assembly, "This is the word of YHWH, the God of Israel:

"Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates and worshiped other gods. But I took your ancestors Sarah and Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led them through the entire regions of Canaan.

Joshua then said, "I now call upon you to revere and serve

YHWH completely and sincerely. Cast off the gods that your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and worship YHWH alone. If you do not want to worship YHWH, then make the decision today whom you will worship, even if it is the gods of your ancestors beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you live. As for me and my household, we will worship God.

Then the assembly said to Joshua “we will serve and obey YHWH our God!”

On that day Joshua ratified the covenant with the people and drew up statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem, which were recorded in the book of God’s law. Then Joshua took a large stone and set it up there under the oak tree close by the sanctuary of YHWH. Joshua said to the assembly, “See this stone? It will be a witness against us. For it heard all the words that YHWH spoke to us. If you renounce your God, it will be a witness against you.”

Message: Which God Do We Serve?

Hymn: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace **VU 684**

WE RESPOND

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:**

**Peace is such a precious gift that all creation cries out for it.
 May these gifts be a witness to others of our faith in the
 Good News, that one day all of creation will be at peace, and
 we will all share in its blessings, giving thanks to the Creator
 of all. 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: *(beginning with a prayer called The Peace That Passes All Understanding - by Bruce Sanguin, in “If Darwin Prayed”).*

Lord’s Prayer:

WE PREPARE TO LEAVE

***Hymn:** Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands **MV 173** (vs
 1,2,4,5)

***Blessing:**

Go now in the sure and certain knowledge that God goes with you.

God’s love gives us strength.

Go now with the assurance that the Christ walks with you.

Jesus is our example of how to live peacefully with all.

Go now knowing that you are never alone.

The Spirit is within us to guide our actions. 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:

Living God of restoration and power, we want to be so occupied with your love for the world that we no longer fear the future. Your abiding spirit in our midst chases out fear, brings peace and guides us in our living. May we find our rest in you alone forsaking all other gods. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Centre Wellington Foodbank

Western Ontario Waterways: Tavistock

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Mary Lloyd, Joan and John Cuming

Counters: Mary Lloyd and Phil Brown