

**November 24, 2019**



**Melville United Church**

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**Melville United Church  
November 24<sup>th</sup> 2019  
Reign of Christ Sunday**

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

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today - Rev. Ruth Brown

*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 and 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:**

It was a different sort of king

They crowned that day

The sort of king who would never quite go away

Moreover, his dreams, well they just grew and grew.

So, it's really no surprise that we would yet find ourselves

Miles and moons from where it first begun

Here ready to celebrate the anointed one

As darkness makes room for the light of son

**Gathering Song:** Holy Spirit Hear us

**VU 377**

**Time with the Younger Ones:**

**\*Hymn:** God of the Bible

**MV 28**

## Children's Prayer

### Call to Worship:

God is our refuge and strength

**A very present help in trouble**

Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should quake

And the mountains fall into the depths of the sea

**Though the waters of the sea rage and foam**

**And the mountains tremble at the tumult**

Be still and know that I am God

**Exalted among the nations, exalted in the earth**

The God of hosts is with us

**The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

### Opening prayer and Confession:

Gracious God of all in heaven and in earth,

In the stillness of this moment may we know that you are

God

*Silent moment of prayer*

Gathered as your people, responding to your call, inspired

by the light of a different sort of king

we confess,

**The self that is not aware of sinning**

**The heart that is too hardened to repent**

**The pride that dares not admit it is wrong**

**The righteousness that knows no fault**

**The callousness that has ceased to care**

**The blindness that can see nothing but its own will**

God of all in heaven and in earth

in your healing love, forgive us in Jesus name.

Amen

### Words of Assurance:

We live and die and live again in Christ,

**the blessed assurance of grace upon grace, healing  
forgiveness and life beyond death.**

Thanks be to God for the Way of New Life.

## **Ministry of Music:**

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 23:1-6 (New Revised Standard Version)  
(Restoration after Exile. The Righteous Branch of David)

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

**Scripture:** Luke 1:67-80 (New Revised Standard Version)  
(Zechariah's Prophecy)

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and  
redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets  
from of old,  
that we would be saved from our enemies and  
from the hand of all who hate us.  
Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our  
ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands  
of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, in holiness and  
righteousness  
before him all our days.  
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most  
High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the  
shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in  
the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

**Reader:** Graeme Chalmers

**Scripture:** Luke 23: 33-43 (New Revised Standard Version)

When they came to the place that is called The Skull,  
they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his  
right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive  
them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they  
cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by,

watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

**Message:** A Different Sort of King

**Hymn:** When Long Before Time

**VU 248**

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:**

**Offering Hymn:** For the Gift of Creation

**VU 538**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**The gifts of God are given for the life of all people. So may your Spirit live and move and have being through these offerings of time, talent and treasure. Indeed as we serve each other day by day, may your kingdom come in earth as in heaven. Through Christ may it be so, 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 and the Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** **VU 333**

**\*Blessing:**

The God of Jacob

**The God who is our refuge and our strength**

The God of all hosts

**Is with us this day and forevermore**

On the threshold of a new season, as darkness covers the  
face of earth

**we go forth in courage, joy and thanksgiving**

**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:**

Almighty to Deliver, in the dawning of a new day, let me praise you for the vision of a community of wholeness and a realm of peace, where all who hunger and thirst are nourished, where the stranger is welcomed and the hurting are healed and the captive set free. Through the power of your Spirit of truth and love, may something in my words and my deeds mirror something of this dream of all dreams. And as the quickening darkness overshadows the land this time of year, may I be still and know always the company of the Blessed Anointed One who is and was and ever shall be, my light and my salvation. Amen

**Partners in Prayer:** St. John's Anglican Church, Elora

**Western Ontario Waterways:** St. Luke's: Cambridge

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Mark Andrews, Diane Maloney, Vivian and  
Havey Andrews

**Counters:** David Gohn and Chris Hopewell