



February 2, 2020



Melville United Church  
February 2, 2020  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

*\* 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:**-words of Meister Eckhart as translated by Matthew Fox  
Spirituality is not to be learned by flight from the world, by running away from things, or by turning solitary and going apart from the world. Rather, we must learn an inner solitude wherever or with whomsoever we may be. We must learn to penetrate things and find God there.

Melville United Church

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## WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

**Call to Worship:** (part written by Richard Bott. Gathering, ACE 2019-2020, page48. Used with permission.)

What do you seek?

**Life!**

Where do you seek it?

**Everywhere!**

Who are you that you seek this life?

**We are beloved children of God,**

**blessed by our brother, Jesus the Christ.**

Then, people of God,

seek life in this place,

seek life in this time,

and know that no matter who you are -

no matter where you come from -

you are welcome here.

**We come seeking new life.**

**We come seeking sanctuary.**

**We come to worship our God.**

**Opening Hymn:** Let Us Build a House (vs 1,2,4,5)

**MV 1**

**Opening Prayer:**

Infinite Wisdom, we come with expectant hearts and minds,

**we are ready to be engulfed in the presence of Spirit.**

Grant us that peace which passes all understanding.

**Ready us to hear your call and your word for us.**

Loving God, we know we are not perfect.

**We often stray from the path of your way.**

Put your gentle hand on our shoulder

and turn us to face what we fear.

**Turn us to be champions for justice.**

Guide us on our journey, keep us on the path

**and teach us how to love. Amen.**

**Words of Affirmation:**

God's love is new every morning, fresh as the dew,  
sparkling like the sun on new-fallen snow.

No matter how tired or confused we are,  
this is always true. You can believe this promise.

**We believe. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (*The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Translation*)

*(God's foolishness is better than human wisdom.)*

For the message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation, it is the power of God. Scripture says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and thwart the learning of the learned." Where are the wise? Where are the scholars? Where are the philosophers of this age? Has not God turned the wisdom of this world into folly? If it was God's wisdom that the world in its wisdom would not know God, it was because God wanted to save those who have faith through the foolishness of the message we preach.

For while the Jews call for miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here we are preaching a Messiah nailed to a cross. To the Jews this is an obstacle they cannot get over, and to the Greeks it is madness - but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, Christ is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your calling sisters and brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were influential, and surely not many were well-born. God chose those whom the world considers foolish to shame the wise, and singled out the weak of this world to shame the strong. The world's lowborn and despised, those who count for nothing, were chosen by God to reduce to nothing those who were something. In this way no one should boast before God. God has given you life in Christ Jesus and has made Jesus our wisdom, our justice, our sanctification

and our redemption. This is just as it is written, "Let the one who would boast, boast in our God."

**Words to Ponder:** Micah 6:6-8

"What shall I bring when I come before YHWH, and bow down before God on high?" you ask. "Am I to come before God with burnt offerings? With year-old calves? Will YHWH be placated by thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil? Should I offer my firstborn for my wrongdoing - the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

Listen here, mortal. God has already made abundantly clear what "good" is, and what YHWH needs from you: simply to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)  
(The Beatitudes)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**Message:** Sermon on the Mount - Part 1 - The Beatitudes

**Hymn:** Come Touch Our Hearts (vs 1-4)

**MV 12**

**WE RESPOND**

**Offering:**

**\*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:**

**God, we offer all we are, all we have, and all that we can be to you. Make us more than we are alone, instruments of your peace and justice, vessels of your hope and love. Use us and the gifts we offer this day for the re-imagining of your Kin-dom. Amen.**

**Prayer Prelude: God, Listen to Your Children**

**VU 400**

**God, listen to your children praying,**

**God, send your Spirit in this place;**

**God, listen to your children praying,**

**send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Lord's Prayer:**

**WE PREPARE TO LEAVE**

**\*Hymn:** Lord, You Give the Great Commission (vs1,2,5) **VU 512**

**\*Blessing:**

Go forth into the world with compassion  
and justice in your heart.

**We go to give strength to the weak  
and voice to the silent.**

See one another. Hear one another.

**We go to care for others with love.**

It's all that easy and it's all that hard.

Now may the grace of God.

The love of Christ

and the power of the Holy Spirit

be with us all, now and forever more.

**Amen!**

**Parting Song:** We Will Go with God **MV 223**

**We will go with God, my sisters!**

**We will go with God!**

**We will go with God, my brothers!**

**We will go with God!**

**On this day of (clap) great joy we will go with God.**

**On this day of (clap) great joy we will go with God.**

(repeat)

**Postlude:****Prayer of the Week:**

Thank you, O God, for your blessing and your call in our lives.

Grant us the courage to commit our whole selves to following  
your paths of justice and peace. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Central Pentecostal Church  
**Western Ontario Waterways:** Elmwood-Crawford  
**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Vivian, Havey and Mark Andrew, Bob Zirk

**Counters:** Mary Lloyd and Karen Smillie