



Melville United Church
 January 26, 2020
 3rd 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: The Gate of the Year *(from "God Knows" by Mimi Louise Haskins)*

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way..."

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Ministry of Music Team:	Suzanne Flewelling
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Gathering Hymn: I Am the Light of the World **VU 87**

Time for the Younger Ones:

Song/Hymn: Simon, Simon, a Fisherman **VU 597**

Children's Prayer:

Ministry of Music: Faith to Carry On -Besig/Price

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

Call to Worship:

God of every morning, calls us from complacency into compassion.

We are here to sing songs of God's love and faithfulness.

We gather into loving arms that become a shelter in difficult days.

We are here to offer our thanks and share that God is good.

We are called into this time and place with full hearts and open hands.

**We embrace the world with open hearts an open eyes,
offering ourselves to God's radiant love.**

God's light shines on all. God has chosen you. Come and see!

Opening Prayer:

God of all time, you call us to be stewards of your light and love,

to share messages of hope and healing.

Let us feel you travelling with us.

**Help us to see with eyes of compassion,
to listen with care and concern,
to respond with passion and purpose.**

Forgive us our insecurities,

for the times we fail to be all that we want to be.

Speak to us this day.

Join our hearts and minds

that we might be good stewards of your light and love.

Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Let us never tire of hearing God's assurances -
you are seen, you are known, you are loved.

**God sees us as we are,
knows us by name,
and loves us deeply.**

Be at peace, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture: John 1:35-42 (*The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Translation*)

(Simon & Andrew become disciples)

The next day, John was by the Jordan again with two of his disciples. Seeing Jesus walk by, John said, "Look! There's the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard what John said and followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned around and noticed them following, he asked them, "What are you looking for?"

They replied, "Rabbi," - which means "Teacher" - "where are you staying?"

"Come and see." Jesus answered.

So they went to see where he was staying, and they spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

One of the two who had followed Jesus after hearing John was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. The first thing Andrew did was to find Simon Peter and say, "We've found the Messiah!" - which means "the Anointed One."

Andrew brought Simon to Jesus, who looked hard at him and said, "You are Simon ben-Jonah; I will call you 'Rock'" - that is, "Peter."

Words to Ponder: Psalm 40:1-11 (a paraphrase by James Taylor-Everyday Psalms) (Lifted out of the mire)

I believed I could make it on my own.

But I slipped and fell.

I sank into a morass of my own making.

God heard my cry.

God lifted me out of the mire and set me on solid ground.

Like any convert to a new life,

I must talk about what has happened to me.

I am willing to risk being a bore;

if just one person hears me,

my work has not been wasted.

Too many today chase false gods;

they try to multiply their own gains.

But the richest returns come from God.

You can't begin to count your blessings!

God does not want us to wear frowns or long faces;

God wants us to find childlike joy

in shining drops of dew,

in whispering pine needles,

in warm mud between the toes.

Our delight becomes one with God's;

our personalities meld.

So I will not keep silent;

I will proclaim my good news privately and publicly.

I cannot keep it to myself.

Reader: David Gohn

Scripture: Isaiah 49:1-7 (*The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Translation*)

(The mission of God's servant)

Islands, listen to me! Pay attention, distant peoples! YHWH called me before I was born, and named me from my mother's

womb. God made my mouth a sharp sword, and hid me in the shadow of the hand of the Most High. The Almighty made me into a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in God's quiver. The Holy One said to me, "You are my Servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

I had been thinking, "I have toiled in vain, I have exhausted myself for nothing!" - yet all the while my cause was with YHWH, and my reward was with my God.

Thus says YHWH, who formed me in the womb to be God's Servant, who destined me to bring back the children of Jacob and gather again the people of Israel: "It is not enough for you to do my bidding, to restore the tribes of Leah, Rachel, and Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations, so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Message: Food Sovereignty and Justice

Hymn: Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore **VU 563**

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:**

We are called as God's beloved to be good stewards of our time, our energy, and our resources.

God takes what we offer

and uses them to serve the world

we are called to love.

All that we have and all that we are
returns to you, O God.

We give with thankful hearts. 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: Will You Come and Follow** VU 567

***Blessing:**

Friends, go now into the world as God's beloved,

We go, knowing we are so very loved.

Go to serve and proclaim God's love.

We go, knowing we are made to shine bright.

Go into the world to grow in love,

Speak in love, walk in love,

and share your light.

We go, knowing the blessings of God go with us. 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:

Faithful God, you call, claim, and send us into the world with your radiant love. Help us to live as ones who are called, claimed, and sent with your blessing, journeying to the places and spaces where we are called to share our light and your love. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Mennonite Church

Western Ontario Waterways: West Montrose Atwood PC

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Chris Hopewell, Doreen and
Larry Broome

Counters: Larry Broome and David Gohn