



February 16, 2020

Melville United Church
February 16, 2020
6th Sunday after Epiphany



Melville United Church

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& Outreach

Rev. Marion Loree

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Martha Duncan

Ministry of Music Team:

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Lynda Rivet

Custodian:

Robert Mitchell

Chair of Church Council:

Allan Hons

Pastoral Care

Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree

Chair of Pastoral Care

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Alison Rainford

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* *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: (Heart of a Buddha, The Amitabha Buddhist Society)

He who receives kindness should never forget it;

but he who performs it should never remember it.

Gathering Hymn: Come, Children, Join to Sing **VU 345**

Time for the Younger Ones: Being Light

Song: This Little Light of Mine

Ministry of Music:

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

Call to Worship:

We gather here to worship.

With open hearts, we come with thanks and praise.

We come seeking to know more about the Holy Presence.

We come to grow as individuals and as a community of faith.

Come, let us open ourselves to the love which created us.

Let us worship our God together.

Opening Prayer:

God, we come today knowing your Spirit is with us.

**We see you in the morning light,
shining a generous glow over all the earth.**

You are present in every colour of the rainbow.

Your love shines through everything and is beyond measure.

You rejoice with us, you mourn with us.

You receive us just as we are, here and now.

Help us to remember your love when we feel like running away and hiding.

Forgive us for the times when our actions cause harm.

We long to know the happiness that comes of a right heart.

Forgive us for the times we allow doubts to cloud our vision.

Help us to release that which binds us.

Help us to release the worries that claim our attention.

Help us to clothe ourselves with your limitless love,

and wash us through and through with your love. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

God tells us that when we admit our mistakes, we are forgiven.

When we let go of the doubts and fears that bind us we are set free.

Be at peace to love and serve the One who loves you most.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48 (*The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Translation*) (Love your enemies)

“You’ve heard the commandment, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you, offer no resistance whatsoever when you’re confronted with violence. When someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer the other. If anyone wants to sue you for your shirt, hand over your coat as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go two miles. Give to those who beg from you. And don’t turn your back on those who want to borrow from you.

“You have heard it said, ‘Love your neighbour - but hate your enemy.’ but I tell you, love your enemies and pray for your persecutors. This will prove that you are children of God. For God makes the sun rise on the bad and good alike; God’s rain falls on the just and the unjust. If you love those who love you, what merit is there in that? Don’t tax collectors do as much? And if you greet only your sisters and brothers, what is so praiseworthy about that? Don’t Gentiles do as much? Therefore be perfect, as Abba God in heaven is perfect.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 (*The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Translation*) (You are God’s temple)

By the Grace God gave me, I acted as a wise architect and laid the foundation. Some-one else is doing the building. But each of you doing the building must do it carefully. For no one can lay a foundation other than the one already in place - Jesus Christ.

Aren’t you aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If you destroy God’s temple, God will destroy you - for the temple of God is holy, and you are that temple.

Don’t delude yourselves. Any who think themselves wise in a worldly way had better become fools. In that way you will really be wise, for the wisdom of this world is absurdity with God - as scripture says. “God knows how empty are the thoughts of the wise,” and again, “God is not convinced by the arguments of the

wise.” So there is nothing to boast about in anything human, whether it be Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future - all these are yours, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.”

Reader: Allan Hons

Scripture: Matthew 6:24-34 (*The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Translation*) (God and possessions)

“No one can serve two superiors. You will either hate one and love the other, or be attentive to one and despise the other. You cannot give yourself to God and Money. That’s why I tell you not to worry about your livelihood, what you are to eat or drink or use for clothing. Isn’t life more than just food? Isn’t the body more than just clothes?

Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet our God in heaven feeds them. Aren’t you more important than they? Which of you by worrying can add a moment to your life-span? And why be anxious about clothing? Learn a lesson from the way the wild flowers grow. They don’t work; they don’t spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in full splendor was arrayed like one of these. If God can clothe in such splendor the grasses of the field, which bloom today and are thrown on the fire tomorrow, won’t God do so much more for you - you who have so little faith?

Stop worrying, then, over questions such as, ‘What are we to eat,’ or ‘what are we to drink,’ or ‘what are we to wear?’ Those without faith are always running after these things. God knows everything you need. Seek first God’s reign, and God’s justice, and all these things will be given to you besides. Enough of worrying about tomorrow! Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own.

Message: Sermon on the Mount - Part 4 & 5 - Finding Freedom & Moving On

Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be

VU 506

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:** (written by Kate Gregory, Gathering, ACE-2019-20, page 52. Used with permission.)

These are but tokens, Gracious God, of the riches you have given us. Take, with these, our time, our talents, our questions, our hopes. We dedicate these gifs and our lives in the name of Jesus. 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:** Open My Eyes, That I May See **VU 371**

***Blessing:** (John Wesley)

Do all the good you can. By all the means you can.

In all the ways you can. In all the places you can.

At all the times you can. To all the people you can.

As long as ever you can.

And I would add - do it all remembering that you are loved more than you can know. Let the people say...

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:

Help us to grow with open eyes and open hearts. Help us to open our hearts to what breaks our hearts, so that we may live with compassion and peace. Open our eyes to the abundance found in Creation, in what blooms and grows even against the odds.

Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora /
St. Andrew's, Alma

Western Ontario Waterways: Hepworth-Sauble Beach

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Doreen and Larry Broome,
Karen Smillie

Counters: David Gohn and Larry Broome