



February 9, 2020

Melville United Church
February 9, 2020
5th 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

Introit: I Won't Be Frightened Anymore -Jayleen Johnson

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

Welcome & Announcements

Joys, Concerns

God Moments/Moments of Awe

Minute for Mission:

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: - *Albert Einstein*

To sense that behind anything that can be experienced there is something that our minds cannot grasp, whose beauty and sublimity reaches us only indirectly; this is religiousness.

Gathering Hymn: Jesus Bids Us Shine

VU 585

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Time for the Younger Ones: Salt and Light

Song: Just Like Salt

Ministry of Music: The River -Brian Doerkson

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

Call to Worship:

This is a place of worship and praise.

We are glad to be here!

Here we find friends to share with us in our joys and sorrows.

We rejoice in their presence!

In and through this faith community
compassion and justice are practiced.

We join with each other to do God's work.

Come, people of God, let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer:

Our hearts lie open before you,
God of love, God of justice:

All that we are, all that you call us to be.

Our deepest yearnings rise before you,
God of wonderment, God of soul:

All that we are, all that you call us to be.

Through this time of worship,
renew within us the vision of your beauty,
restoring our own gift of radiance:

All that we are, all that you call us to be.

We contemplate the injustices
that exist in the community and our part in them.

God, forgive us.

We lament the ways we have fallen short
of shining our light in positive ways.

God, forgive us.

Guide us as we practice justice

and strive to live in your ways. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world - whoever follows me will have the light of life." Friends, we walk in Christ's light - free and well-lighted by God's grace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20 (*The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Translation*)

(You are salt. You are light)

Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt were to lose its flavour? How could you restore it? It would be fit for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. You don't build a city on a hill, then try to hide it, do you? You don't light a lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you? No, you set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your Abba God in heaven.

"Don't think I've come to abolish the Law and the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. The truth is, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter of the Law, not even the smallest part of a letter, will be done away with until it is all fulfilled. That's why whoever breaks the least significant of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

"I tell you, unless your sense of justice surpasses that of the religious scholars and the Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Words to Ponder:

-Joan Chittister, *There is a Season.*

The Hasidic masters tell the story of the rabbi who disappeared every Shabbat eve, "to commune with God in the forest," his congregation thought. So one Sabbath night they deputed one of their cantors to follow the rabbi and observe the holy encounter. Deeper and deeper into the woods the rabbi went until he came

to the small cottage of an old Gentile woman, sick to death and crippled into a painful posture. Once there, the rabbi cooked for her and carried her firewood and swept her floor. Then when the chores were finished, he returned immediately to his little house next to the synagogue.

Back in the village, the people demanded of the one they'd sent to follow him, "Did our rabbi go up to heaven as we thought?"

"Oh, no," the cantor answered after a thoughtful pause, "our rabbi went much, much higher than that."

Reader: Lillian Gohn

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-37 (*The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Translation*) (Teachings on anger, adultery, divorce, and oaths)

Jesus said: "You've heard that our ancestors were told, 'No killing' and, 'Every murderer will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that everyone who is angry with sister or brother is subject to judgment; anyone who says to sister or brother, 'I spit in your face!' will be subject to the Sanhedrin; and anyone who vilifies them with name-calling will be subject to the fires of Gehenna.

"If you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your sister or brother has a grudge against you, leave your gift there at the altar. Go to be reconciled to them, and then come and offer your gift.

"Lose no time in settling with your opponents - do so while still on the way to the courthouse with them. Otherwise your opponents may hand you over to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the bailiff, who will throw you into prison. I warn you, you won't get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You've heard the commandment, 'No committing adultery.' but I tell you that those who look lustfully at others have already committed adultery with them in their hearts. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away. It's better to lose part of your body than to have it all cast into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away! It's better to lose part of your body than to have it

all cast into Gehenna.

"It was also said, 'Whenever a couple divorces, each partner must get a decree of divorce.' But I tell you that everyone who divorces - except because of adultery - forces the spouse to commit adultery. Those who marry the divorced also commit adultery.

"Again, you have heard that our ancestors were told, 'Don't break your vow; fulfill all oaths made to our God.' But I tell you not to swear oaths at all. Don't swear by heaven, for it is God's throne; don't swear by the earth, for it is God's footstool. Don't swear by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great Ruler. And don't swear by your own head, for you can't make a single hair white or black. Say 'Yes' when you mean 'Yes' and 'No' when you mean 'No.' Anything beyond that is from the Evil one."

Message: Sermon on the Mount - Part 2 & 3 - Salt, Light & From the Heart

Hymn: Seek Ye First the Kingdom

VU 356

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 of every good gift, we stand before you, bathed in your brilliance and warmed by your love, so grateful for the blessings you have generously given us. Receive our tithes and offerings, may they help to bring about a world where your light cannot be hidden and where all good works point to your presence. 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: God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing** **VU 425** (tune 406)

***Blessing:**

Go to be the salt of the earth.

**We strive to give flavour and meaning to each and every
day.**

Go to be the light on the hill.

We dare to share our love of Christ with everyone.

We can be bold because

it is God who empowers us.

We can be brave because

it is Christ who encourages us.

We can shine bright because

it is the Spirit who leads us.

Go now, into the world to shine and to serve.

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:

O God of the universe, Christ of incarnated wisdom, Spirit of the green-blue earth, you illumine us with your great light of love and we pledge our love to you. May we be strong in our resolve and may our bodies be filled with your passion as we commit ourselves to being your healing love in this world. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Fergus

Western Ontario Waterways: Waterloo: First

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Lloyd, Mark Andrews, Lorna Ziegler, Isobel Glennie

Counters: Mary Lloyd and Phil Brown