



Celebrating 175 Years



Melville United Church	
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March 1, 2020

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Lent 1

* 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: - Meister Eckhart
God is nothing. No thing. God is nothingness; and yet God is something. God is neither this thing nor that thing that we can express. God is a being beyond all being; God is a being-less being.

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

Call to Worship:

Friends of God, welcome.
May the Spirit of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As we begin the Season of Lent
make yourself at home
in the unfolding
presence of Love
that nestles,
nourishes,
and gives renewed strength
for the journey of faith.
Come, let us worship God together.

Hymn: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

VU 108
(vs 1,3,4,6)

Opening Prayer:

God of love and mercy,
we gather today from different places -
both of location and life experience.

**Some of us arrive content,
some are muddled and fractured,
still others somewhere in between.**

God of love and mercy,
at the beginning of the Lenten season,
we pray for a willingness to be held in all that we are.

**We come daring to believe
that in your embrace
joy and hope arises anew.**

Grateful for forgiveness,
we seek healing .
Grateful for forgiveness,
we seek renewed relationships.

Grateful for forgiveness,
we seek courage to speak truth.

Hold us;
in your love may we rest and be renewed. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

People of the wilderness, rejoice! You are not alone.
**We walk together by the power
of all that is holy and always with us.**

You are children of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Ministry of Music: Rockin' The Boat (Jean Anne Shafferman)

Communion Hymn: Let Us Break Bread Together

VU 480

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*The elements of communion today will be served by intinction.
When the time comes you will be invited to come to the front, take
a piece of bread from the communal tray then move to one of the
cups on either side to dip and then consume your bread. Please
take the time you need before returning to your seat. If you
cannot come forward for whatever reason to receive the elements
please indicate to an usher and you will be served in your seat.*

Invitation:

As we come to this table we are reminded that this is not the
table of Melville United Church; nor is it the table of the United
Church of Canada or any particular denomination. It is the table
of Jesus the Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God.
All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith
and long to live justly and at peace with their neighbour, are
welcome here.

The Holy One is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving

O grace-filled and holy God....,

... and so we gather with those of every time and every place as we join our voices together to sing;

O holy, holy, holy God,

(MV 203)

O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above

bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n

creation sings your praise.

And blessed in the One who comes

and bears your name always!

Maker of bread and wine....,

....we sing of the mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!

(MV 204)

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!

At this time we remember and pray

....we join our voices together now as we sing together the words he taught us...

Lord's Prayer: (Sung)

VU 959

Words of Institution:

On the night before he died...

....Bless us and bless all others with whom we share this fragile planet.

Amen, amen, O Holy One!

(MV 205)

Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One,

Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking the Bread & Pouring the Cup

Jesus Christ - the bread for the journey

Jesus Christ - the wine of arrival..

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,

whoever comes to me will never be hungry:

whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are now ready.

Post Communion Prayer:

We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness; that wine poured out replenishes; that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another is gift and grace. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, to be tempted by the Tempter. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry. Then the Tempter approached and said, "If you are the Only Begotten, command these stones to turn into bread."

Jesus replied, "Scripture has it. 'We live not on bread alone but on every utterance that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Next the Tempter took Jesus to the Holy city, set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said, "If you are the Only

Begotten, throw yourself down. Scripture has it, ‘God will tell the angels to take care of you; with their hands they will support you that you may never stumble on a stone.’”

Jesus answered, “Scripture also says, ‘Do not put God, to the test.’”

The Tempter then took Jesus up a very high mountain and displayed all the dominions of the world in their magnificence, promising, “All these I will give you if you fall down and worship me.”

At this, Jesus said to the Tempter, “Away with you, Satan! Scripture says, ‘You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.’”

At that the Tempter left and the angels came and attended Jesus.

Reflection: The Discipline of Discipleship

Prayer:

Hymn: Jesus Tempted in the Desert **VU 115**

WE RESPOND

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

***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:**

Holy Mystery, we know very little of your plan for us, but we know you love us and that we belong to you and one another. We bring these gifts with the hope that they may make a difference in a world so in need of love.
Amen.

WE PREPARE TO LEAVE

***Hymn:** Now Let Us from This Table Rise **VU 483** (tune 560)

***Blessing:**

In this Season of Lent we will journey inward to encounter God's presence in our daily lives.

**We will journey outward
 to encounter God's presence in all of creation.**

We will journey onward beyond what we know.

**By faith we will discover
 who we are and who we want to be.**

Go in peace to learn, serve and share in the abundance for which you were created.

Amen!

Parting Song: Melville Benediction

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

We pray to the One God of the many: Grant us the courage to intervene when we sense injustice. May we speak generosity into scarcity and use the power of our presence only for those who cannot speak for themselves. Remind us of the privilege it is to know who we are and our place in the order of your creation.
Amen.