



*Celebrating
175 Years*

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Melville United Church
March 8, 2020
Lent 2



Melville United Church	
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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: What to Give Up

Give up complaining...	Focus on Gratitude
Give up pessimism...	become an Optimist
Give up worry...	trust Divine Providence
Give up bitterness...	turn to Forgiveness
Give up hatred...	return Good for Evil
Give up negativism...	be positive
Give up anger...	be more Patient
Give up pettiness...	become Mature

Give up gloom... enjoy the Beauty all around you.
Give up jealousy... pray for Trust
Give up gossiping... control your tongue
Give up giving up... hang in there.

Gathering Hymn: O God, How We Have Wandered **VU 112**

Time for the Younger Ones:

Song: Jesus Loves Me **VU 365**

Ministry of Music: God on the Mountain -Tracy G. Dartt

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

Call to Worship: (Written by Catherine Tovell, Gathering Lent/Easter 2020, pg 32.
Used with permission.)

On this second Sunday of Lent,
we come seeking God.

In this time of uncertainty
in our lives and our world,
we come seeking God.

Quieting our minds, opening our hearts,
and waiting for the divine mystery
to make itself known,
we come to worship God.

Opening Prayer:

Wind of God, blow through us and refresh us.

Blow through us and help us.

Blow through us and bring us new life.

Blow away the things that prevent us
from seeing your life in the whole of creation,
and show us ways to help the healing of your world.

We confess that we do not always see blessings for what they are.

**We sometimes lack imagination and optimism
because we have experienced pain in the past.**

God, we need you to teach us about our true selves.

**We need you to help us recognize your presence
and promise in ourselves and in each other. Amen**

Words of Affirmation:

When we ask our questions

God hears us.

When we speak to God,

We are heard.

When we seek God,

God's presence is revealed.

When we are sincere in wanting help to change.

We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 26:31-35

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night... But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

Reflection: I Will Never Desert You -Donna Sinclair

Questions to Ponder:

Are there times when you have backed down from what you know - and have declared - to be right and good? After that, what enables you to go on?

Prayer:

God of deserters and deniers, lead us not into temptation.

When we yield to the gods of shiny stuff, forgive us.

Save us from the paralysis of guilt.

Help us instead to mourn

help us to grieve, and repent, and go on into the glory of your presence.

We know that you have gone ahead and wait for us in love. Amen

Scripture: Isaiah 40:28-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard? God is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. This God does not faint or grow weary; God’s depth of understanding is unsearchable.

God gives strength to the weary, and empowers the powerless. Young women may grow tired and weary, young men may stumble and fall exhausted; but those who wait for God will find a renewed power: they shall soar on eagles’ wings, they shall run and not get weary, they shall walk and never tire.

Reflection: Holy Waiting

-Christine Jerrett

Questions to Ponder:

When have you experienced the joy of “mounting up, with wings like eagles” in your life? In what ways are you growing weary? What makes it hard for you to “wait for God”?

Prayer:

We know how to work hard, God, and be very busy, often in your name and for the sake of your way of love and justice.

For all that, we are still anxious about the world, as we watch hatred grow and the wild diversity of your creation disappear.

We are your baptized people,

claimed by Jesus to be pulled by your Holy Spirit into your holy work of justice and peace,

But we are growing weary.

We long for renewed energy and strength.

We turn to you. We stop our doing. We wait.

Let us feel your presence.

We pray in the name of Jesus who invited us to come to him and find rest for our souls, new life, and hope. Amen.

Hymn: On Eagle’s Wings (Psalm 91)

VU 808

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:**

Receive these gifts that we bring, God, as a symbol of all that we seek to be and to do in your way. Bless what we offer and direct us in the use of these gifts for the well-being of all. Amen.

Prayer Prelude: Nothing Can Trouble

VU 290

Nothing can trouble,

Nothing can frighten.

Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble,

Nothing can frighten.

God alone fills us.

Prayers of the People:

Lord's Prayer:

WE PREPARE TO LEAVE

***Hymn:** How Firm a Foundation

VU 660

***Blessing:** (based on Psalm 121:5-8)

God is your guardian, your shade.

God remains by our side.

By day the sun will not harm you,

nor the moon at night.

God enfolds your comings and goings,

now and into unknown yet hopeful futures.

Friends, go from here in peace

to love and serve the God of all grace

in all whom you meet

along life's winding and unfolding roads.

Amen!

Parting Song: Melville Benediction

Let's go out from here and take our place.

Respect creation, sharing all God's grace.

Treasure the past and things we have done.

Open our minds to new things yet to come.

God will be with us within, around, above.

Bless all our actions let us go and love.

Bless all our actions let us go and love.

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

God of mystery, we are often bound by the kind of logic that keeps us from imagining rebirth. Open our minds to the idea that

we can be born again and again so we can imagine life both new and renewed for ourselves and all of creation. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Unitarian Universalist Association

Western Ontario Waterways: Bridgeport

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Chris Hopewell,
Vivian and Havey Andrews

Counters: Chris Hopewell and Phil Brown