



**Celebrating
175 Years**



June 28, 2020

Melville United Church

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**Melville United Church
Sunday June 28th 2020**

Worship prepared today by
Rev. Tom Watson

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Good morning! Welcome to online worship, coming to you from historic Melville United Church in downtown Fergus, Ontario. This year is a very special year for Melville as it is the 175th anniversary of this church.

My name is Tom Watson. I am filling in for Marion Loree the last Sunday of each month while she's away on her sabbatical, and I am pleased to be with you on this June 28 Sunday. And a sincere thanks to Colleen Weber, organist and pianist here at Melville, for her musical leadership during this service.

I thought you might like to know how all of this happens. Colleen and I come here to the church and tape the service. I then upload it to my YouTube channel, send the link to the church secretary, Lynda Rivet. Lynda works her magic on it and puts it on Melville's website. It's a pretty slick use of technology while we're in this "can't meet in person" time.

So, again, welcome to everyone and I hope you enjoy being part of this time.

Acknowledgment of Indigenous Territory

I will begin in the way Melville folks have become accustomed.

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.

Sharing the Light (take a moment to light a candle and centre yourself to prepare to enter in to a time of worship and prayer. As you light the candle repeat the following words)

I 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.

Call to Worship:

We come together in community seeking friendship...
Seeking comfort and affirmation...
Seeking support and understanding.
As a community of faith, let us worship God.

Hymn - We Are One (verse 1) (Voices United 402)

We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
In the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
And we come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, we are drawn to this time in response to your love for us—the love that joins us, one to another...the love that nurtures us in our relationships...the love that heals old scars and touches us with the gift of tomorrow. Be with us now in our worship. Amen.

Organ Meditation — Mendelssohn's Organ Sonata No. 6, Final Movement (Colleen Weber)

Scripture Reading: A collage of verses

Proverbs 17:22

A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.

Isaiah 40:31

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

John 10:10

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Message: "We Can Make a Difference!"

Offering

I'm sure that even though you're not able to come here to Melville in person, you still care about the church, and still support it financially. That way it will still be here for you when you can get back together.

Prayers

Antiphonal Lord's Prayer

This morning, I am going to do The Lord's Prayer in an antiphonal way again. What happens is that I will break The Lord's Prayer up into short phrases, and each time you will repeat the phrase that I have just sung. Colleen and I will work together on this. She will sing your part—the repeated phrases.

Closing Hymn - Deep In Our Hearts (More Voices 154)

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
Telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
Justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
Flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;

Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
Telling Creation that we are one.

Departing Prayer

May God's spirit be with us as we leave this time of worship,
Remaining in our vision, our story, our song.
May the grace, mercy and peace of God go with us
And remain with us always.
Amen.

Postlude: When the Saints Go Marching In (Colleen and Tom)