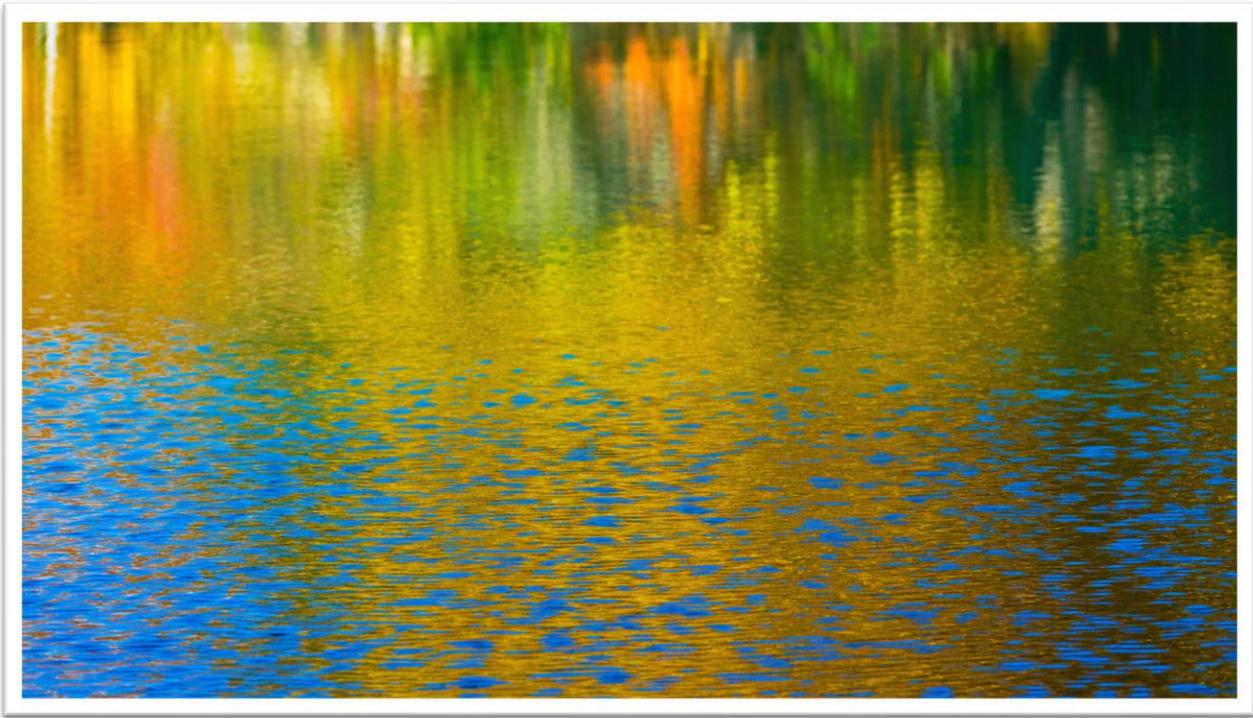




*Celebrating
175 Years*



November 15, 2020

Melville United Church

300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9

Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M2W7

519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach	Rev. Marion Loree
Faith Formation & Youth	Martha Duncan
Ministry of Music Team	Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber
Office Administrator	Lynda Rivet
Custodian	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council	Allan Hons
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
Office hours	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.
E-Mail	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-835-8605, 519-843-3841

Melville United Church
Nov 15, 2020
24th Sunday after Pentecost

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree
Speaking today - Neil Dunsmore

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.

Welcome

My name is Marion Loree and I am the minister here at Melville United Church in Fergus, Ontario. We gather in community today - November 15, 2020 - some of us here in person and some of us on-line and some by the printed word.

Today we are delighted to have Neil Dunsmore with us to share some of his experience and learning from his recent walk, yes, I said walk, from Elora to Ottawa. His goal was to raise awareness about male suicide and mental health in our community and beyond. We look forward to hearing your wisdom today, Neil.

So, I invite you to take some time to join us in this time of worship and inner contemplation - a time in which we search together for hope and meaning and ways to strengthen our faith. A time for recognizing and acknowledging the still small voice within each of our hearts.

Announcements: Gifts with Vision

www.giftswithvision.ca

Joys and Concerns & Accomplishments:

Sharing the Light *(If you are watching this on-line or reading it from a page I invite you to take a moment to light a candle, centre yourself and prepare to enter in to a time of worship and prayer. As you light your candle repeat the following words)*

We light a candle today to remind us

that there is a mysterious power or presence that connects us all -
we call it God.

that this mysterious presence dwells within each of us -
as it did in the person of Jesus whom we call the Christ.

that we *cannot* be separated from this presence that is
the Spirit of love which created us and that is part of us always.

Words of Wisdom:

If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but by all means keep moving. – Martin Luther King Jr.

The only impossible journey is the one you never begin. – Tony Robbins

Call to Worship: *(Based on Psalm 123)*

We lift our eyes and raise our hearts
 and are met by the Holy One.
 We stretch out our arms and open our hands
 in the hope of finding mercy.
 In our stretching, we are met
 by the kind eyes and warm hands
 of companions along the way.
 May we be aware of the signs of love
 that are always with us.
 Come, let us worship together.

Hymn: Here I Am, Lord**VU 509**

- 1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
 I who made the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall I send?
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.
- 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
 I have borne my people's pain,
 I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone,
 give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak my word to them.
 Whom shall I send? R
- 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
 I will tend the poor and lame,
 I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
 Finest bread I will provide
 till their hearts be satisfied.
 I will give my life to them.
 Whom shall I send? R

Opening Prayer:

Infinite Wisdom, you have created us as a people each with different gifts. Each of us is empowered in some way to contribute to this world. We are created to live in community each sharing our individual talents for the good of all in small ways and large. We have been created to serve. Let us feel you with us in this time of worship. And may we be inspired us to follow more closely in your way of love. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Sometimes God, we abandon our hopes, our dreams, our plans -
and then get angry when things don't turn out as we had hoped.

Sometimes, we leave others in charge of things,
and then complain about the way they do the job.

Sometimes, we fear trying new things.

Sometimes, we give up.

In all these times, and more besides, forgive us.

Restore our courage and call us to risky adventures
that we may touch the lives of neighbours and strangers. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Each of us is blessed with a unique way to contribute.

Supreme Love offers grace, forgiveness, healing, freedom, talent, life, new life.

Let us embrace the life the God gives.

Ministry of Music: Turn, Turn, Turn -Pete Seeger
Performed by - The Melville Spirit Sings Praise Band

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 9:10

Whatever you choose to do, do it with all the drive you have. There will be no sense of accomplishment, pride, learning, or wisdom in the grave. And the grave, after all, is where you are going.

Scripture: 1Peter 2:4-7

Come to Christ - a living stone, rejected by mortals but approved nonetheless, chosen and precious in God's eyes. And you are living stones as well; you are being built as an edifice of spirit, to become a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. For scripture has it,

"See, I am laying a cornerstone in Zion; an approved stone, and precious. Those who put their faith in it will not be shaken." The stone is precious for you who have faith. But for those without faith, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

Message: Reflection in the Ripple -Neil Dunsmore

Preparation for Prayer:

As we prepare our hearts and minds to enter into a time of prayer I invite you to sit comfortably and quietly for a moment. Breathe deeply a few times paying particular attention to your breath as it moves in through your nostrils and fills your lungs. Picture your breath as a light entering your body and filling it with love and relaxation. Then when you exhale imagine the breath taking all your tensions and worries with it as it leaves your body. Do this a few times until you feel relaxed then move on into the prayer time.

Prayers:

Divine Friend, Great Mystery, you are in and part of us and all that is. It is through you that we have our being. During those moments when we feel like what we have to offer is never enough, fill us with hope and strength to recognize and invest in our gifts.

Remind us that we are given song that we might sing with abandon!

Remind us that we are given dance that we might move with joyful exuberance.

Remind us that we have been given a natural world to care for. May we invest in this gift and plant seeds, protect habitat, decrease our carbon footprint, and relish in the delights of your harvest.

Remind us that we have been given responsibilities. May we recognize them, not as burdens, but as blessings and opportunities to show our love and devotion.

Remind us that we have been given relationships. May we discover through them new dimensions of ourselves. May we honour and cherish everyone of them.

Remind us that we have been given community. May we open the doors wide to any in need of our friendship, of a safe harbour, or the nourishment of welcome.

Remind us that we have been given your Spirit that we may be a people of justice, peace, and renewal. We give thanks for all the gifts of our lives. May we invest them wisely and joyfully.

Today we pray for those who have wealth, power, and political ties, may use their positions for the good of all.

We pray for people in situations of oppression, where dignity and self-worth are violated, and where greed diminishes the life of another.

We pray for those in our community who are sick, depressed, mourning losses, seeking new hope, looking for work, or feeling alienated.

We pray for our brothers and sisters of Arkell United Church and for all those who work on our behalf in other parts of our country and the world. And we pray for ourselves as, in a moment of silence, we offer our individual prayers of concern and joy. Hear the prayers of our hearts.... (silence).... Today we remember _____

We pray for Neil and all like him who are not afraid to stand up for what they believe in and take the first step to make a difference. May we do the same.

In all these things, grant us the courage to respond. Grant us encouragement, love, kindness, and endurance. Let us do all that we do remembering that, ultimately, it is for you that we do it.

We offer these and all of our prayers in the name of our brother, Jesus the Christ, who stands with us and among us as we pray together the words he taught us so long ago. Saying...

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Offering:

If you would like to do your part by making a monetary donation to Melville United Church, there are several ways to do that.

1. Cheque (post-dated cheques are welcome) made payable to: Melville United Church - which can be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M 2W7 or put in the mail slot beside the parking lot door.
2. Donate online through the Canada Helps website
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/melville-united-church>
3. Call Lynda, to arrange Pre-Authorized Remittance payments (PAR).
4. E-transfer directly from your bank. E-mail to secretary@melvilleunited.com

Thanks to all of you who continue to contribute so much to make Melville the caring community of faith that it is. You are a blessing.

Offering Prayer:

We bring and send our offerings - a portion of our treasure - returning to you some of what we have been given. Bless it, we pray, that it may multiply and increase in every way, through your love and promise. Amen.

Hymn: Go, Make a Diff'rence

MV 209

Go, make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.

We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.

Go, make a diff'rence in the world.

Go, make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the hands of Christ,
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.

We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go, make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.
And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
 Go, make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
 Go make a diff'rence in the world.
 Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
 Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Blessing:

Friends, go well, with and within the presence of Spirit.
Be of good courage, and gentle of heart.
Be of wise mind, and open to new instruction.
Be of vision, not ignoring the obvious and pressing.
Be of simple faith, yet radically open to questions and doubts.
Be free; offering a generous healing and freedom for others.
Go in peace. Amen.

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

Holy One, you call us to be part of your world of transforming love and liberation. Yet, we are often cautious, denying ourselves the joy of your presence. Grant us the courage, we pray, to utilize our talents and gifts to the fullest. Amen.