



**November 8, 2020**

Melville United Church

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**Melville United Church**  
**Nov 8, 2020**  
**Remembrance Day Service**

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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.*

**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 8, 2020 - some of us here in person and some of us on-line and some by the printed word.*

*Today we are marking Remembrance Day. It is a day which has been set aside to remember all those who have died in the defense of our country in times of war. And although many wars continue this year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII.*

*So, I invite you to take some time to join us in a 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](http://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:** Micah 6:6-8

*“What shall I bring when I come before YHWH and bow down before God on high?” you ask.  
“Am I to come before God with burnt offerings? With year-old calves? Will YHWH be placated by thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil? Should I offer my firstborn for my wrongdoings - the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”*

Listen, here, mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what “good” is, and what God requires of you: to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

**Call to Worship:** *(by Micol Cottrell in Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2013)*

There was a dream.

Wolves and sheep together,  
nations at peace,  
weapons of war turned into tools of harvest.

There was a dream,

The vulnerable supported  
poverty and injustice broken  
the aching made whole.

And this dream of God became flesh  
on the tongues of the prophets  
in the dreams of the people  
in the body of Christ.

And this dream of God becomes flesh  
in you and in me  
as we follow in God's holy way  
and live the love of Jesus.

Come, let us worship together

**Opening Prayer:**

On this day we gather to pray for your peace.  
Not the peace that comes from the barrel of a gun,  
but the peace that comes from an open heart.

The peace that is created through the sharing  
of all of the gifts of your creation,  
so no one will live in want.

The peace revealed when we welcome the stranger  
and greet them as a friend,  
rather than seeing them as someone to be feared.

The peace created when all the voices of your children are heard,  
instead of ignoring those who only want what is just.

It is the peace that lies at the heart of your vision for us,  
as revealed in the life and words of Jesus. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession:** (Remembrance Day Prayer-Bruce Sanguin - *If Darwin Prayed*, Page 209)

O God,  
whose heart is broken  
by the violence in the human race,  
forgive us that we have lacked  
the imagination and collective will  
to create a war-less world.

Forgive us for breaking faith  
with those who gave their lives,  
for the unconscionable gap between the rich and poor,  
for corruption and deceit in high places,  
for the profit gained by the sale of weapons,

for the spirit of domination in our world leaders,  
for learning so little from the deaths of 100 million  
in the past century.

In you alone is our hope;  
in your power, which can purify the human heart  
and set our feet upon the path of peace, do we trust.  
You can do great things  
in willing hearts.  
Break, then, our hardened hearts.  
Break them with grief, with memory, and with hope.  
In the name of the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

**Words of Affirmation:**

Hear the assurance of Holy Presence: "And when you call for me, I have already answered.  
And when you call for me, I am already there."  
Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Service of Remembrance**

*Please remain standing as you are able throughout the service of Remembrance.*

**\*Hymn: O Canada**

**VU 524**

O Canada!\_ Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise, the True North strong and free!  
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

**\*Reading: In Flanders Fields**

*Col. John McCrae*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
    Between the crosses, row on row,  
    That mark our place; and in the sky  
    The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
    Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
    In Flanders fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
    The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
    If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
    In Flanders fields.

**\*Roll Call:**

**\*Act of Remembrance:**

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

**\*Last Post:**

**\*Silence:**

**\*Rouse:**

**\*Prayer:**

God of peace, we remember those who fought and died, and we are thankful. We remember those who still suffer because of conflict and war, and we hold them in our hearts. We remember the committed life of Jesus and we are faithful. May his example of how to live in peace become the norm throughout the world. Amen.

**\*Hymn/Reading:** O God, Our Help in Ages Past (verses 1,3,5,6)

**VU 806**

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:
  
- 3 Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.
  
- 5 Time like an ever-rolling stream  
soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.

**Ministry of Music:**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, an heir is given us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest. This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, my sisters and brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, decent, admirable, virtuous or worthy of praise. Live according to what you have learned and accepted, what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then will the God of peace be with you.

**Message:** A Story of Peace - Old Turtle - by Douglas Wood

Once, long long ago . . .

Yet somehow, not so very long . . .

When all the animals

and rocks

and winds and waters

and trees

and birds

and fish

and all the beings of the world could speak . . .

And understand one another . . .

There began . . . AN ARGUMENT.

It began softly at first . . .

Quiet as the first breeze that whispered,

“He is a wind who is never still.”

Quiet as the stone that answered,

“He is a great rock that never moves.”

Gentle as the mountain that rumbled,

“God is a snowy peak,  
high above the clouds.”

And the fish in the ocean answered,

“God is a swimmer,  
in the dark blue depths of the sea.”

“No,” said the star,

“God is aa twinkling  
and a shining,  
far, far away.”

“No,” replied the ant,

“God is a sound  
and a smell and a feeling,  
who is very, very close.”

“God,” insisted the antelope,

“Is a runner, swift and free,  
who loves to leap  
and race with the wind.”

“She is a great tree,”

murmured the willow,  
“a part of the world,  
always growing  
and always giving.”

“You are wrong,”

argued the island,  
God is separate and apart.”  
“God is like the shining sun,  
far above all things,”  
added the blue sky.

“No, He is a river,  
who flows through the very  
heart of things,”  
thundered the waterfall.

“She is a hunter,” roared the lion.  
“God is gentle” chirped the robin.  
“He is powerful,” growled the bear.

And the argument  
grew LOUDER  
and LOUDER  
and LOUDER  
until . . .

STOP!

A new voice spoke.

It rumbled loudly, like thunder.  
And it whispered softly, like butterfly sneezes.

The voice seemed to come from . . .  
Why it seemed to come from . . .

. . . Old Turtle!

Old Turtle hardly ever said anything,  
and certainly never argued about God.

But now Old Turtle began to speak.

“God is indeed deep,”  
she said to the fish in the sea:  
“And much higher than high,”  
she told the mountains.

“He is swift and free as the wind,  
and still and solid as a great rock,”  
she said to the breezes and the stones.

“She is the life of the world,”  
Turtle said to the willow.  
“Always close by, yet beyond the farthest twinkling light,”  
she told the ant and the star.

“God is gentle and powerful.  
Above all things and within all things.

“God is all that we dream of, and all that we seek,”  
said Old Turtle,

“All that we come from and all that we can find.  
“God IS.”

Old Turtle had never said so much before.  
All the beings of the world were surprised,  
and became very quiet.

But Old Turtle had one more thing to say.

“There will soon be  
a new family of beings in the world.” she said,  
“And they will be strange and wonderful.

“They will be reminders of all that God is.  
“They will come in many colors and shapes,  
with different faces  
and different ways of speaking.

“Their thoughts will soar to the stars,  
but their feet will walk the earth.

“They will possess many powers.  
They will be strong, yet tender,  
a message of love from God to the earth,  
and a prayer from the earth back to God.”

And the people came.

But the people forgot.  
They forgot that they were  
a message of love,  
and a prayer from the earth.

And they began to argue . . .  
about who knew God,  
and who did not;  
and where God was,  
and was not;  
and whether God was,  
or was not.

And often the people  
misused their power,  
and hurt one another.  
Or killed one another.

And they hurt the earth.

Until finally even the forests  
began to die . . .



. . .and the rivers  
and the oceans  
and the plants and the animals  
and the earth itself . . .

Because the people could not  
remember who they were,  
or where God was.

Until one day there came a voice,  
like the growling of thunder;  
but as soft as butterfly sneezes,

Please, STOP.

The voice seemed to come from  
the mountain who rumbled,  
“Sometimes I see God  
swimming, in the dark blue  
depths of the sea.”

And from the ocean who sighed,  
“He is often among the  
snow-capped peaks,  
reflecting the sun.”

From the stone who said,  
“I sometimes feel her breath,  
as she blows by.”

And from the breeze  
who whispered. “I feel  
his still presence as I  
dance among the rocks.”

And the star declared,  
“God is very close;”  
and the island added,  
“His love touches everything.”

And after a long,  
lonesome and scary time . . .  
. . . the people listened,  
and began to hear . . .

And to see God in one another . . .  
. . . and in the beauty of all the Earth.

And Old Turtle *smiled*.

And so did God.

**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:**

God of old times, God of present times, God of future times, we come today to remember those who have given their all for our country and our way of life. We come to remember those who are still fighting and working to bring peace to many places in the world. We come to remember so we will not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Peace is such an easy word to say but it is very complicated to do because we don't just want to silence the guns and weapons, we want the peace, your peace, to reign in the hearts of every man, woman and child on this planet. To do that we must first cultivate peace in our own hearts. If we are ever to see peace in the world it must start with us. For war and violence are an outward symptom of troubled and hurting hearts.

Your peace comes from within hearts that are filled with love and compassion and acceptance. Your peace starts in the hearts of each of us. From there it moves outward like ripples on a pond.

We pray for the power to be gentle, the strength to be forgiving, the patience to be understanding, and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding too tightly to what we believe to be right.

We must put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We must put our trust in you, Infinite Wisdom. Show us the way.

Today we pray for our brothers and sisters of Calvary Memorial United Church, Kitchener and for all those who work to bring your peace to other parts of our country and the world. And we pray for ourselves. Peace must begin with each of us as we strive to offer your love and care to the people in our lives. Hear us now as we open our hearts to you... (silence).... Today we pray for \_\_\_\_\_.

May our lives, our thoughts and our energies be devoted to the task of making peace.

We offer these and all of our prayers in the name of our brother, Jesus the Christ, who stands among us as we pray together 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](mailto: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 do not give out of guilt or manipulation.

We give out of gratitude.

We do not accept from a place of shame or greed.

We accept from a place of delight.

We are not controlled by things and plans.

We live by the Spirit.

We do not lose sight of what is most important.

We pay attention to the sacred.

May our gifts and offerings help to bring peace to many.

Amen.

**Hymn: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace****VU 684**

- 1 Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your healing power,  
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:
- 2 Make me a channel of your peace:  
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
where there is darkness, only light;  
and where there's sadness, ever joy.  
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love with all my soul.
- 3 Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

**Blessing:**

Go now in peace.

Love God, love yourself,  
and love others in everything that you do.  
And know that God, our source of love,  
Jesus the Christ, our example of love,  
and the Holy Spirit the bearer of love,  
is with you - always. Amen

**Postlude:****Prayer of the Week:**

God of peace. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and forever. Amen.