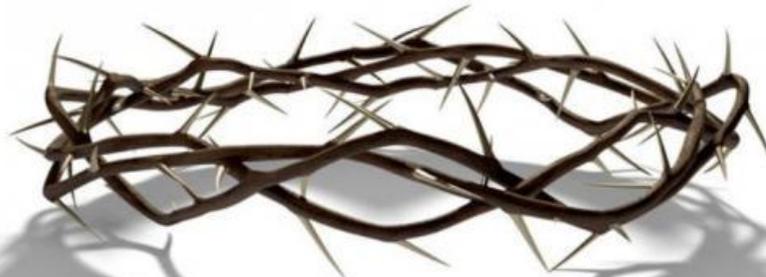




Celebrating
176 Years



November 21, 2021

Melville United Church

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Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach

Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

Office Administrator

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Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

Office hours

E-Mail

Web Site

Pastoral Care Numbers

Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Martha Duncan

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Lynda Rivet

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Melville United Church
November 21, 2021
Reign of Christ

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of the risen Christ

We gather in community today – November 21, 2021 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person.

As we gather today, we mark the Reign of Christ, when we consider the nature of Christ's reign, and the place Christ has in our life.

Announcements

- The **hymn books** have been returned to the sanctuary. You will find them on the table on the sides. Please feel free to help yourself. Please return them to the tables at the end of the service.
- **2021-2022 Gifts with Vision** catalogues are out. These gifts are perfect for those difficult to buy for people. There's no going out, no standing in line, no wondering if the item you ordered will be here in time for Christmas, no wrapping. And you will be helping out those in need near and far. Items address healing and reconciliation, leadership, counter racism, wellness and safe spaces, education, poverty and hunger, the future, Mission & Service. Gifts range from \$5 to \$140. Gifts include food for the north, help build a well, purchasing Covid vaccines for the Global South and East, and much more. You can find the full catalogue at www.giftswithvision.ca.
- We continue to **collect items for the food bank**. A list of the most needed items was sent out, and if you need a printed copy, just let someone on the Social Justice team or Rev. Lynda know, and we will get it to you. In addition to non-perishable food items, the food bank is also looking for personal and feminine hygiene products as well as fresh vegetables, apples and oranges.
- We will be celebrating **White Gift Sunday** during Advent on December 12th. Although toys have often been what we offer as our white gifts, the food bank is doing something different this year. Therefore the Social Justice and Outreach Committee asks you to make your white gift offering one of money or food or personal and feminine hygiene products. Our children will be collecting toiletries and small items with an emphasis on what is needed for teens.
- **Mitten Tree** – We will once again be placing a mitten tree in the sanctuary and ask you to decorate it with mitts, hats, scarves and socks to keep folks in need warm during the winter.
- **High School Students Swap** – Centre Wellington District High School is collecting indoor and outdoor new and gently used clothing for students to access for free. Please take your donation directly to the high school.
- **Advent Study** – Advent is sometimes just the thing that stands between us and Christmas, or an opportunity to get at all those Christmas preparations—getting the Christmas cards sent, baking, picking out a tree, wrapping presents... What about preparing our hearts? That is just as important an activity for the weeks leading up to December 24th. With that in mind, we will be

holding an Advent study on Monday nights during Advent: November 29th, December 6th, 13th and 20th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. We will be meeting by Zoom and using the study materials in the Advent Unwrapped resource from the United Church of Canada. You can find the materials at <https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/advent-unwrapped> at the bottom under "Worship Blogs." Please let Rev. Lynda or a member of the Faith Formation Committee know if you are interested.

- **Giving Tuesday** is Tuesday, November 30th. We are invited to support the United Church Giving Tuesday initiative for Climate Justice. Funds raised will go to **Honor the Earth**, an Indigenous organization led by Winona LaDuke that works on the front lines of climate change. Funds will also be raised for the **UCC Council for Climate Justice** that brings awareness in the UCC to climate justice and brings people together for action. Our goal is \$150,000. **Honor the Earth** will receive 70% of your donation and **UCC Council for Climate Justice** will receive 30%. Every donation counts, and every donation matters.
- **Upcoming Services:**
 - November 28 – First Sunday of Advent – Communion, Admission of Members by Transfer
 - December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent
 - December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent – White Gift Sunday
 - December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Christmas Cantata musical service
- The Centre Wellington Ministerial Association has become aware of incidents of violence at Centre Wellington District High School against students who are LGBTQ and Black, Indigenous and People of Colour. The recent violence is mostly happening off school property on the paths leading between the high school and Zehrs and between the high school and Sportsplex. Teachers are not able to monitor these locations because they are not on school property. A request has been made, in consultation with the high school staff and the OPP, to have area churches recruit 4-5 adults for each lunch hour to walk the stretch of land near the high school and to simply be a physical presence onsite where these attacks tend to take place. If you would be available for a lunch hour or two per week, from 11:30 to 12:30, please let Rev. Lynda know.
- **Caroling during Sip and Shop** – There may be an opportunity during the Sip and Shop -- Nov, 25, 26 and Dec. 2 and 3 -- late night shopping in Fergus to have a group of carolers singing in front of the library. This would be a wonderful opportunity to offer music that goes deeper than the consumerism of the season -- to the deeper meaning. If you or anyone you know is interested, please let Rev. Lynda know.

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

Acknowledgement Peter Chynoweth, *Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2021*, p.25. Used with permission.

Land is sacred and holy.

Our relationship to the land is sacred and holy.

Our relationship with each other on this land is sacred and holy.

It calls for respect and appreciation.

And so we offer our appreciation, our thanksgiving, and our respect

that we can gather in this place and on this land

as a result of the welcome that comes through the Haldimand Treaty and the Simcoe Patent - Treaty No. 4,

which allow for peaceful and respectful living on this land.

Thanks to the

Petun,

Haudenosaunee,

Anishinabewaki,

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation,

Odawa and

Mississauga people

who have lived on and walked these lands for thousands of years.

We acknowledge that we are connected with the people who have lived here for all these years because of the treaties.

Because we are treaty people, we must honour the responsibilities that come with it.

May we be people who remember this with gratitude and respect.

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)

There once was someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things

teaching

healing

helping

loving

inviting everyone to join in

that people wondered who he was.

Finally they just couldn't help it. They had to ask him who he was.

When they asked him who he was, he said, "I am the light of the world."

So we light this candle to remember and remind ourselves that the Light of the World, and the love, healing and welcome offered are with us here in this time

Call to Worship: *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 40, p. 121. Copyright 2021.*

Who is your King?

Ruler, Monarch, Head of Life?

Who is your supreme Influencer on and in life?

Director, Agitator, Comforter, Guide.

Who is Jesus to you?

Robed in majesty, girded with strength

or the one despised and handed

over to die for love of God and all people?

**Let us worship Christ the King:
both of the world
and of the yet to be.**

Hymn: Jesus Shall Reign **VU 330**

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.
- 3 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
and prisoners leap to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 4 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

Opening Prayer: *Richard Bott, Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021, p.47. Used with permission.*

You are the source of all things.

You are the beginning and end.

You are the great "I am."

And we are blessed in knowing you,

God of all things.

We ask for your help.

Help us.

We ask for your wisdom.

Guide us.

We ask for your compassion.

Love us.

So that we might be
compassionate and wise as we help in your world.

May it be this way,

by your grace, Loving God. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "Walking in Faith with Our Lord!" words by Nancy Price and Don Besig, music by Don Besig – Melville Choir accompanied by Colleen Weber

Call to Reconciliation *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2. Copyright 2015.*

Trusting in the power of God not only to
fashion the world
but to mend and refashion our hearts, let us say
how it is with us.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation *Scott Martin, **Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021**, p.47. Used with permission.*

We swore an oath to you, Sovereign One,
but with our actions, we do not follow through.
We close our eyes each night, but our minds do not sleep;
they wander with thoughts of temptations.
We judge each other but Jesus teaches us to judge no one.
We move through shadows but, with Jesus in our lives, we could live in the light.
**We confess to you, Almighty God,
that we, as humans, are not perfect in how we treat our neighbours,
how we treat ourselves,
and how we treat your beautiful creation.
We turn now to your patience, understanding, and forgiveness
and open our minds and hearts to you in confession. Amen.**

Words of Assurance *Scott Martin, **Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021**, p.47. Used with permission.*

Our Gracious God sent us God's only son,
who is the light of the world,
who turns the shadows of our lives into bright rays of sunshine
that put smiles on our faces for all to see.
Let our spirits receive your word and our hearts listen to Jesus' wisdom.
Let us praise the God of grace and God of glory and remain faithful always. Amen.

"...In the Midst"

The Christian Year



Hymn: The King of Love

VU 273

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed;
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever!

Scripture:

Prayer *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2.** Copyright 2015.*

Spirit of truth, *John 18:33–37*
move now in ancient words and cluttered hearts
that we might hear your voice and live,
for we long to be glad servants
of your hidden, holy reign.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Scripture: Revelation 1:4b-8 (NRSV)

I am the Alpha and the Omega

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead,
and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come,
the Almighty.

Scripture: John 18:33-37 (NRSV)

Pilate asks Jesus, "Are you king of the Jews?"

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

'Are you the King of the Jews?'

Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?'

Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I?'

Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?'

Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world.

If my kingdom were from this world,

my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the temple authorities.

But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.'

Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?'

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king.

For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.

Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

May God bless to our understanding these readings from scripture. Amen.

Prayer *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2.** Copyright 2015.*

Sovereign God,

come to us now in silent, holy power.

Still our distracted minds, our bruised hearts,

our longing bodies.

Then speak the power of Jesus' name

in such a way that we might hear it,

in such a way that we might bear it into the world—

as a people who seek not to preserve what we know

but to make palpable who you are—

for we move and pray by the gift of your breath

within us. **Amen.**

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share
find a response that is worthy of you,
most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

Reflection: The Paradox of Christ

This week, the Church celebrates "Christ the King" or "Reign of Christ" Sunday. It's a hinge week between the liturgical seasons of Ordinary Time and Advent, when we pause to reflect on the meaning of Christ's kingship and reign, before we delve into the mysteries of light and darkness, hope and lament, prophecy and Incarnation.

Pope Pius XI instituted The Feast of Christ the King in 1925, to be celebrated throughout the universal church, in his encyclical [*Quas Primas*](#). He connected the increasing denial of Christ as king to the rise of secularism throughout much of Europe. At the time of the proclamation of this feast, *Quas Primas*, many Christians (including Catholics) began to doubt Christ's authority and existence, as well as the Church's power to continue Christ's authority.

Pius XI, and the rest of the Christian world, witnessed the rise of non-Christian (or nominally Christian) dictatorships throughout Europe, and saw Catholics being persuaded by these earthly leaders. These dictators also often attempted to assert authority over the Church. And so, the Feast of Christ the King was instituted during a time when respect for Christ and the Church was waning, when the feast was needed most.

It is fitting that the feast celebrating Christ's kingship is observed right before Advent, when we liturgically wait for the promised Messiah (King). The hope of Pope Pius XI was that the feast of Christ the King would have various effects:

1. That nations would see that the church has the right to freedom, and immunity from the state
2. That leaders and nations would see that they are bound to give respect to Christ
3. That the faithful would gain strength and courage from the celebration of the feast, as we are reminded that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills, and bodies

Although the goals of this Sunday, to mark Christ's sovereignty, continue to be similar to those of its founder, we do have a certain understanding of kings:

- A male monarch who rules for life by inheriting the throne
- A paramount chief
- Patriarchy
- Rich
- Powerful
- Entitled
- Distant
- Of the nobility, the highest class

Given the pomp and circumstance we typically associate with kings, we might turn to the lectionary this week, expecting to find passages that sound, well, *kingly*. Something glorious from the Book of Revelation, perhaps, about Jesus sitting on his throne, decked out in splendid robes and a jeweled crown. Or something majestic from Isaiah: "A son will be given to us, and the government will rest upon his shoulders." Or at least a shiny moment from one of the Gospels: Jesus transfigured on the

mountaintop. Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus emerging from the waters of baptism, heaven thundering in his ears.

Which is why, for me at least, to name this Sunday Christ the King Sunday, could be seen to be misleading. Because although Christ is the son of God, he is anything but a rich, privileged, entitled, powerful member of the highest class, the nobility, nor is he calling on us to see ourselves, his followers, as part of such a reality.

What we find instead the culmination of our King's life occurring in a crucifixion scene—the most humiliating, degrading punishment, the most horrific, inhuman death. A stripped and suffocating man, wracked with pain. A crowd of mockers spewing hate. A man hanging between thieves, contempt ringing in his ears, speaking blessing and promise to someone less fortunate than himself.

Can we pause for a moment and contemplate the paradox that is at the heart of our faith? This is our king. This is *our king*. If there is any moment in the Christian calendar that demands that we really look at our identity as Christians — the inclination to pride, to piety, to superiority — this one has to be it. Our king was a dead man walking. His chosen path to glory, was the **cross**. If paradise was anywhere, it was with him, only and exactly on that forsaken hill where his oppressors left him to die.

If we need insight into this paradox, we need look no further than the Gospels. In Mark 10:42-45, Jesus said:

You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to become great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

And in our reading today from John 18:33b, 36-37:

Pilate said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"... Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did not belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the temple authorities. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.

And so for me, the way I better understand this Sunday is the Reign of Christ, where Christ is identified in community, in relationship with those for whom he lives, serves and dies. Because Jesus knew the oppressive nature of the kings of nations, and in contrast to them, he identified his role as king as one of humble service, and he instructed his followers to be servants as well. Jesus' kingdom, kin-dom as I choose to name it, is tied to his suffering and death for the meek and lowly, the shunned and outcast, like the criminal with whom he speaks, crucified beside him.

While Christ is coming to judge the nations, his teachings spell out a kin-dom of justice and judgement balanced with radical love, mercy, peace and forgiveness. When we celebrate the Reign of Christ we are not celebrating an oppressive ruler, but one willing to die for humanity and whose "loving-kindness endures forever."

What does it mean in the time and place **we** live in to honour Christ's kingship through his passion? Because this time of ours is so marred by greed, selfishness, individualism, and bitter

partisanship. What does the cross offer us by way of example, warning, and blessing? What version of citizenship might we live out that will begin to follow Jesus' way?

As we ponder this week's lectionary passages, what is most striking is what **isn't** there:

There is no path to glory in these texts except the one through humility, surrender, and sacrificial love. There is no permission to secure one's well-being at the expense of another's suffering. There is no acceptance of an idea that holy ends somehow justify any and all means, regardless of how excessive. There is no indication that truth-telling is optional. There is no kingdom that favors the pompous or superior over the broken-hearted.

There is a hymn I'd like to share. It first appeared in Songs of a Gospel People, where interestingly, the title is "Christus Paradox." Words are written by Sylvia Dunstan. She wrote the text en route home from her work as a prison chaplain.

You, Lord, are Both Lamb and Shepherd (VU210)

- 1 You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd.
 You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer
 of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant;
 you, whom we both scorn and crave.
- 2 Clothed in light upon the mountain,
 stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
 beggared by a soldier's toss.
You, the everlasting instant;
 you who are both gift and cost.
- 3 You, who walk each day beside us,
 sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
 have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
 you, who are our pilgrim guide.
- 4 Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
 Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory.
 Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
 you, who are our death and life.

Where does this leave us? I think it leaves us with a king who makes us profoundly uncomfortable; with a call to really look at how Christ lives and would have us live: in humble, compassionate, loving service to our siblings, our friends, our neighbours, and perhaps even more, the last and least, the meek and lowly, the stranger in our midst. So king, yes, leader, yes, humble servant, absolutely—the paradox of our Christ. Might we live open-heartedly enough to imitate him.

And a prayer offered by Shanon Farmer at <https://slideplayer.com/slide/8453047/>

Lord, High and Holy, Meek and Lowly,
You have brought me to the valley of vision,

where I live in the depths but see you in the heights.
Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up,
that to be low is to be high,
that the broken heart is the healed heart,
that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit,
that the repenting soul is the victorious soul,
that to have nothing is to possess all,
that to bear the cross is to wear the crown,
that to give is to receive,
that the valley is the place of vision.
Let me find your light in my darkness,
your life in my death,
your joy in my sorrow,
your grace in my sin,
your riches in my poverty,
your glory in my valley.

Hymn: Seek Ye First the Kingdom VU356

- 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
 and God's righteousness,
 and all these things shall be added unto you.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.

- 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you;
 seek and you shall find;
 knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.

- 3 We do not live by bread alone,
 but by every word
 that proceeds from the mouth of God.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.

Joys and Concerns

Preparation for Prayer

Let us practice the art of Praying with our Eyes Wide Open, that in seeing the world and those within it we are called to tend we may be *opening the eyes of our hearts to all in need around us (Lamont Koerner '81 MDiv God Pause for Thursday, September 16, 2021 from Luther Seminary):*

Prayers Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2*. Copyright 2015.

Holy God,
we do not know how to pray,
but Jesus invites us into the life he shares with you,
and so we keep coming, because we want to live.
Receive us now in our frailty, our complacency, our desire.

We pray for your church all over the world.
May the life we discover in you
bind us to each other and to the world you love,
for no need is beyond the strength of your call
and no child of yours is expendable.
Merciful God, give us wisdom and courage beyond our imagining.

We pray for each leader who might be an instrument of peace
in a troubled land.
By the movement of your reconciling spirit,
bless your people with the courage to reach past
old wounds and persistent fears.
God of resurrection, bring life where hope has died.

We pray for friends and strangers in the grip of addiction.
Make us able companions for each other,
and bless us with hope that bears fruit.

We pray for unsettled economies
and those whose needs are overlooked in the choices of the powerful.
May we, who know so much privilege,
bear our responsibilities with open eyes and open hands.

We pray for all who stand at the thresholds of life:
your children who are soon to be born,
and your children who are soon to go home.

We give thanks for new faces to love, ideas to ponder, work to do—
and we marvel at the sturdy friendships and persistent memories
that sustain us when the way is hard.
May each be a reminder of your love and your provision.

We thank you for the gift of song—
for notes that speak when words fail,
and choirs that practice at the end of long days.
Give strength to leaders who call forth the best from us
and invite us to breathe together.

Holy One, keep calling us into the world—your world—
as salt and light.

Equip each of us for the challenges we will face
until we learn to worship in the most unlikely places,
for you are the source of our song and the well from which we pray,
wherever we are planted.

By the power of your Spirit, we make our prayer with resurrection hope,
in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

saying: **[Lord's Prayer]**

Lord's Prayer Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Minute for Mission: A Second Chance



A Second Chance

Photo: Bissell Centre



According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, one in five Canadians experience mental health problems. Your Mission & Service gifts help.

In his own words, Chance shares how the mental health support he received through the Bissell Centre—an organization supported through your Mission & Service gifts—helped him change his life.

“My name is Chance. I’m 25 years old and live at Hope Terrace, a permanent supportive home that is run by the Bissell Centre. I have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder—a type of brain injury with no cure—so I need help with things like coping with my emotions, keeping appointments, and cooking.

“Before I moved into the Hope Terrace residence, life was frustrating and stressful. I used to live at my grandmother’s house, along with my mom and four other family members. When everyone was home it was chaos, which made it even harder to manage my emotions—even happy emotions were too much at times.

“Mom and I knew I needed help, but we didn’t have money and we didn’t know where to start. So, a few years ago, I tagged along with my friend to Bissell Centre’s Easter meal. He was getting help from Bissell and seemed to like it enough. Maybe I could get help too?

“It was at that very meal that I first heard about Bissell’s mental health resources and the Hope Terrace house.

“When I was invited to move into Hope Terrace a few months later, Mom and I both agreed it would be a good decision. I finally felt some hope. Maybe life doesn’t have to be so hard all the time? Maybe I could have a better life?

“The staff here help me with the things that overwhelm me most—like budgeting, cooking, and dealing with my emotions. They are awesome! They’re really good, kind people—they’re my family.

“Without the support that I regularly get here, I don’t know where I’d be.”

Thank you for your generosity through Mission & Service.

Offering Invitation *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2**. Copyright 2015.*

Sisters and brothers,
we worship the One who stands
at the *beginning* and at the *end* of history—
the God for whom all time is *now*.
Every day we have a chance to participate
in the work God is doing in the world.
By bringing our gifts each week,
by offering our lives each day,
we affirm our trust in a power beyond violence,
beyond greed.
Let us gladly offer who we are—
and what we hold—
in service to God.

Rev. 1:8

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. By leaving your offering envelope on the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.
2. 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.
3. Donate online through the Canada Helps web-site
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/melville-united-church>
4. Call or email Lynda, to arrange Pre-Authorized Remittance payments (PAR).
5. 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. May you be blessed.

Offering Prayer *Gord Dunbar, **Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021**, p.48. Used with permission.*

Grudgingly or joyfully, dutifully or impulsively,

we offer to you, O God, the work of our hands and the plenty of our hearts.

Bless us as we continue to become ever more your people of the Way of Jesus.

Equip us in our self-giving for your reign here and now. Amen.

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision VU 642

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
 naught be all else to me save that thou art,
 thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
 I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
 thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
 thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
 be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
 thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
 raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
 thou mine inheritance, now and always;
 thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
 great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Commissioning/Blessing *Robin Wardlaw, Gathering: Pentecost 2 2021, p.48. Used with permission.*

From this place, go out remembering the holy vision.

Go to the waiting world; go out to build God's dream.

In this hour, go out with the Spirit of Christ within you and before you. Amen.

Change the Light/Blessings

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.

I'm not going to put it out, just change it.

See how it is only in one place?

Change Light

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.

Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word®
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Gracious God,

help me to receive this day as gift:

in the tasks for which I do not feel prepared,

in the needs I am not strong enough to meet.

In my caution and in my confidence

teach me to listen for your voice and to watch for your provision.

Grant me the gift of life in community,

that I might witness your desire flowing through others,

that I might be joined to greater service,

for I pray in the name of Jesus, whose every breath was praise. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word®
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Lord of life,

as I recollect this day,

help me to recognize your witness

in truth that challenged convenience,

in decisions that stretched my heart,

in forgiveness freely offered.

Teach me to trust the sound of your voice

and to follow where you lead,

for I would serve in the shelter of your reign. Amen.