



Celebrating
176 Years



November 7, 2021

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
November 7, 2021
Remembrance Sunday and Peace Sabbath

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of the risen Christ

We gather in community today – November 7, 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 Remembrance Sunday and Peace Sabbath.

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.
- 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.
- 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 to 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.
- 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: *Beth W. Johnston, **Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2021**, p.45. Used with permission.*

*(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)*

It's not rocket science!

Peace is more than the absence of fighting.

Peace is justice and righteousness for all.

When the language of peace is "all Greek to us,"

may God teach us the language of hope and reconciliation.

Light the Christ Candle

May the light of this candle remind us of the One
who brought light from chaos and hope from despair.

May it be so.

Call to Worship: *Richard Bott, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2021, p.45-46. Used with permission.*

Who are we, gathered in this place?

We are followers of Christ, the Prince of Shalom.

And what is this shalom?

Peace with justice, a peace that is right, God's peace.

Why are we here?

**To remind ourselves that we are an important part of shalom—
in our relationships, in our communities, in our world.**

Then come, let us gather.

Let us worship the Holy One and let us prepare ourselves to carry God's peace into God's world.

Hymn: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy VU 271

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
 like the wideness of the sea;
 there's a kindness in God's justice
 which is more than liberty.

- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
 are more felt than up in heaven;
 there is no place where earth's failings
 have such gracious judgement given.

- 3 There is plentiful redemption
 in the blood that Christ has shed;
 there is joy for all the members
 in the sorrows of the Head.

- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter
 like a crowd of frightened sheep?
 Foolish hearts, why will you wander
 from a love so true and deep?

- 5 For the love of God is broader
 than the measures of the mind,
 and the heart of the Eternal
 is most wonderfully kind.

Opening Prayer: *Robin Wardlaw, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2021, p.46. Used with permission.*

Remember the suffering of the world.

Remember the sacrifice of the soldiers, civilians, and peacemakers.

Remember the Holy Spirit,

who leads us into the ways of peace and light.

We celebrate your presence, Holy One, and live for a world made holy. Amen.

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.*

God has promised to make of us a new creation, Rev. 21:1
laying to rest the former things, making all things new.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin, shortcomings, brokenness,
all that stands between us and God and us and one another,
as we share in our Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation *John Moses, **Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2021**, p.70. Used with permission.*

Holy God, we want to believe
that the arc of the universe
bends toward justice:
that evil will be overthrown,
that those who are poor will be lifted up,
that those who are homeless will find shelter,
that those who are cast out and excluded
will be made welcome,
that peace will take root in the human heart,
that the earth will be renewed,
that your kingdom will come,
but the weight of history
bears heavily upon us.
We know how often hopes
have been disappointed,
how many dreams
have been crushed.
therefore, we are tempted to abandon hope
and we scarcely dare to dream.
We do not trust your promises
and we take refuge in the cynical wisdom of this age.
Forgive us. Heal us.
Teach us how to hope and dream.
Make us a community
that seek justice and resists evil.
We pay in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance *John Moses, **Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2021**, p.70. Used with permission.*

God's patience passes all understanding.
God's love is greater than all our failures.
God's power to save and renew
Is beyond our power to imagine.
People of God, take heart. Hold on to hope.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

“...In the Midst”

One possibility for the children’s time is to explore the relationship between Canadian military values and Christian faith. These values teach about the importance of moral factors in military operations and the qualities that military professionals are expected to possess. They are: duty, loyalty, integrity, and courage. However, these four values can also reflect how we are called by Jesus to live out our faith. Connect each of these values to an example of how they might be important to people of faith.

Duty

Military Value:

- duty entails service to Canada and compliance with the law
- It obliges members to adhere to the law of armed conflict while displaying dedication, initiative and discipline in the execution of tasks
- military leaders act in accordance with the professional precept of “Mission, own troops, self”
- this concept of duty motivates personnel both individually and collectively to strive for the highest standards of performance while providing them with purpose and direction throughout the course of their service

Loyalty:

- personal allegiance to Canada and faithfulness to comrades across the chain of command
- for loyalty to endure, it must be reciprocal and based on mutual trust
- all Canadian Forces members support the intentions of superiors and readily obey lawful orders and directions
- downward loyalty further demands that Canadian Forces members be properly cared for, that their desires and concerns be heard, and that their personal needs be tended to, both during the time of their service and after it

Integrity:

- to have integrity is to have unconditional and steadfast commitment to a principled approach to meeting your obligations while being responsible and accountable for your actions
- requires transparency in actions, speaking and acting with honesty and candour, the pursuit of truth regardless of personal consequences, and a dedication to fairness and justice

Courage:

- courage allows a person to disregard the cost of an action in terms of physical difficulty, risk, advancement or popularity
- courage entails willpower and the resolve not to quit
- frequently, it is a renunciation of fear that must be made not once but many times
- courage requires constant nurturing and is not suddenly developed during operations

(Go to this website for more details about the four values: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/duty-with-honour-2009/chapter-2-statement-of-canadian-military-ethos/section-4-canadian-military-values.html>)

Integrity: the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness

Loyalty: a strong feeling of support or allegiance

Courage: the ability to do something that frightens one; strength in the face of pain or grief

Duty: a moral or legal obligation; a responsibility

May you find God in the midst of all your days.

Hymn: Come, O Fount of Every Blessing VU 559

- 1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
 tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
 call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
 mount of God's unfailing love.
- 2 Here I pause in my sojourning,
 giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
 God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
 precious presence, precious blood.
- 3 O, to grace how great a debt
 or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
 bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
 wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
 seal it for your very own.

We Remember

Hymn: VU524 "O Canada"

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 by *LCol 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.

An Act of Remembrance *Richard Bott, Gathering Pentecost 2 2019, p. 68-69. Used with permission.*

Remember the men and women who have died in active service.

**And we remember their friends and
family members who still feel deep grief.**

(a time of silence)

Remember the men and women who still suffer the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wounds of war.

**And we remember those for whom
depression and post-traumatic stress is a reality.**

(a time of silence)

Remember the naval, army, and air force personnel
who faced mortal danger.

**And we remember civilians, bombed, shelled,
and driven from their homes,
and refugees living in camps without hope of a new life.**

(a time of silence)

Peace-loving God,

**while we commit ourselves to remembering, count us in when it comes to compassionate and
practical support
for those who suffer because of wars past and present.**

(a time of silence)

We remember,

and we act, because the Jesus spirit inspires us. Amen.

Reading of the Honour Roll

Last Post – *played by Kaillie Rawn*

Minute of Silence

Rouse – played by Kaillie Rawn

Responsive Prayer

Eternal rest grant to them, O God, and may perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls, through your great mercy, rest in peace. Amen.

Scripture:

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By the power of your Holy Spirit
startle us with your Word, O God,
and awaken us to your truth,
for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Scripture: Luke 7:1-10 (NRSV)

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave.

When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, 'He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.'

And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him,

'Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you.

But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed.

For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.'

When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, 'I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.'

When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

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

All praise to you, most holy and gracious God! *1 Kgs. 17:13–16*

You have set us free from fear
and filled us with good things.

You surprise us with your grace
and give us all we need.

Even when we lose sight of your ways, *Mark 12:40, 44*
you pull us back to you
and overwhelm us all over again,

reminding us of your power, your compassion,
and your justice.
All praise to you, our triune God,
now and forever. **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: Mercy Between the Lines of Conflict

I want to share a story about actions undertaken in the heat of battle. Now this comes from a war that Canadian forces were not involved in; I hope you will be able to look past the different combatants and see the humanity in the story.

In December 1862, the confederate and union armies lined up against each other in a town called Fredericksburg in Virginia. For four days they fought, and in the midst of the battle was a confederate soldier by the name of Sgt. Richard Kirkland.

He started out as a private, but by this point in the war, December 1862, he was serving under General JB Kershaw, who after the war, took it upon himself to tell the story of this young man.

During the Battle of Fredericksburg, the union was taking terrible losses. In the field that lie between the armies' lines lay hundreds of union soldiers who were wounded. As shots continued to ring out across the field, no one was able to go and give them aid, and for a day and a night, they lay there, begging for help, pleading for just a drink of water. And yet, no one ventured into the line of fire to help them.

Until Sgt. Kirkland came to find Gen. Kershaw, asking permission to go into the field, and bring water to those soldiers. According to Kershaw, Sgt. Kirkland said, "General! I can't stand this. All night and all day I have heard those poor people crying for water, and I can stand it no longer. I come to ask permission to go and give them water."

With great anxiety, the General consented, and watched as Kirkland stepped over the wall into no man's land, on his errand of mercy. The General later wrote,

"Unharmred, he reached the nearest sufferer. He knelt beside him, tenderly raised the drooping head, rested it gently on his own noble breast, and poured the precious life-giving fluid down the fever-scorched throat. This done, he laid him tenderly down, placed the soldier's knapsack under his head, straightened out his broken limb, spread his overcoat over him, replaced his empty canteen with a full one, and turned to another sufferer.

By this time his purpose was well understood on both sides, and all danger was over. From all parts of the field arose fresh cries of 'Water, water; for God's sake, water!' More piteous still the mute appeal of some who could only feebly lift a hand to say, here, too, is life and suffering."

Mercy is a precious commodity in the midst of war. The mercy that Sgt. Kirkland showed to those Union soldiers speaks of a depth of mercy that we do not often witness. But we do get another glimpse of it in our scripture passage from Luke. The centurion is an interesting figure in this story.

He is part of the Roman occupying force in Israel. He is the conqueror in a conquered land. He is there, in Capernaum, to make sure that the conquered remain...conquered. And yet, with the piteous cry of his servant, whom he shouldn't care about, not really, the battle lines are blurred for just a few moments.

Under normal circumstances, the centurion should have gotten a couple of his soldiers to just go and get Jesus. After all, Jesus had no status, no title that would have caused the centurion pause over just commanding an audience with this itinerant preacher. But mercy is not commanded, and on some level, the centurion seems to know this. So he asks the Jewish leaders in the town to go and speak to Jesus on his behalf. "When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, 'He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.'" (v.4, 5)

This centurion, due to his prior relationship with the Jews, has demonstrated that he is a man of faith, a philanthropist, a good man of character, and the Jewish leaders do not seem to be surprised that he is going out on a limb for his slave. But these Jewish leaders are just the first envoys that the centurion sends to Jesus. Jesus and the envoys don't make it across town to the centurion's house, until some of the centurion's friends, probably Roman, meet Jesus in the road with a message from him. "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed." (v. 6, 7)

According to the Jewish leaders, this Roman occupier is "worthy" of making this miracle performed for him. After all, he has shown himself a man of faith prior to this incident. ... But... the centurion himself claims to be **unworthy**, just to have Jesus under his roof, much less to have a miracle performed for him. By all accounts, all measures given to us by this world: financial, military, political, even religious, this centurion is "worthy" of all kinds of things; but what does it mean to be worthy of **mercy**?

In this life we tend to draw all sorts of lines between ourselves and others—lines that not only give us identity and tend to tell us who our friends are, but also the identity of those who are not our friends, perhaps even our enemies. We draw lines between conservatives and liberals, rich and poor, Indigenous and settler, homed and homeless just to name a few. No doubt each of us could come up with a list of our own lines. And sometimes in the heat of conflict, all we tend to see is the enemy, the "not-friend" on the other side of the of the wall. But maybe the truth is that between the lines of conflict lies a great field, and in that field are the cries of those desperate souls who are caught in between the fighting.

On this field, we might find a single parent, working 50 hours a week to make ends meet, while the other parent is lax with child support. We might find a child, struggling to understand what it means to be male or female. We might find a teenager, contemplating suicide because they are so scarred by the violent use of hateful words against them. On this field you will find those suffering because of their lack of access to timely healthcare and dentistry. While the conflict rages on, does anyone hear their cries for mercy? From all parts of the field arise fresh cries of "Water, water; for God's sake, water!" More piteous still the mute appeal of some who can only feebly lift a hand to say, here, too, is life and suffering. In the race to defeat the enemy, these cries go unheeded, collateral damage in the theology of "the ends justify the means."

Was the centurion worthy of Jesus' help? Well, really, are any of us? Jesus could have been on solid ground to refuse him. After all, in Matthew, when a Canaanite woman asked him to heal her

daughter, he replied, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Mt. 15:24)

But Jesus does not refuse him. This Jewish rabbi goes out of his way to help one of the very ones who are occupying his land and oppressing his people. Across the field of conflict, Jesus wanders across to offer water and mercy to those who would do him and his people harm. Sgt. Kirkland risked his own life to offer mercy to those who would do him and his people harm.

In these days of church decline, it's risky to wander off the sidelines and into the midst of the fray to help those who cry out. It often seems to us that we are risking our lives to help those who are caught in the middle of these lines of conflict, but, at least for Sgt. Kirkland, the battle stopped as soldiers on both sides figured out what he was doing. He was out in that field for almost two hours, and he raised his head to find no bullets were flying, no cannons being shot off, no grenades being thrown his way.

For just a little while, on a cold December day, the battle stopped, and mercy prevailed. Maybe we, God's church, could spent more time in the field, and perhaps the conflict would not just stop for a little while, but for a long while. More would come to know the meaning of Christ's mercy, and while no one might claim they deserved it, or was worthy of it, Jesus might just stand amazed, once again, and say, "Not even in Israel have I found such faith." May it be so for God's church. Amen.

Hymn: O Day of Peace VU 682

- 1 O day of peace that dimly shines
 through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
 guide us to justice, truth, and love,
 delivered from our selfish schemes.
 May swords of hate fall from our hands,
 our hearts from envy find release,
 till by God's grace our warring world
 shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

- 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
 nor shall the fierce devour the small;
 as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
 a little child shall lead them all.
 Then enemies shall learn to love,
 all creatures find their true accord;
 the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
 for all the earth shall know the Lord.

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 adapted by prayers written by United Church of Canada military chaplain Captain (Rev.) Nathan Wright. © 2021 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice; and by Won Hur, **Gathering Pentecost 2 2021**, p.70. Used with permission.

In a world of uncertainty, let us turn to God,
Who laid the foundation of the universe,
Whose infinite moral arc bends toward justice.

Holy One, we come before you now with praise and thanksgiving,
as well as sorrow and concern, in our hearts.

With gratitude on this Remembrance Sunday,
we call to mind the soldiers, sailors, air personnel, and RCMP
who have paid the ultimate price that we might live in freedom.
We remember those who died in distant wars and those more recent.
By sacrificing their lives, they left us the responsibility and the duty
to continue their work on the things that make for peace.
From generation to generation, may their valour and selflessness never be forgotten.

We are especially mindful today of the effects of military life on the body, mind, and spirit.
Give courage, comfort, and healing to all those who suffer wounds, both visible and invisible.
Help us to remember that the effects of conflict
reach far beyond the battlefield and can last a lifetime.
Enable us to provide the support our service members need to live happy and healthy lives.
May our commitment to them be as full and complete
as their commitment to serve Canada before self.

Lest we forget, the families and friends of our service members share in the burdens of military life.
Bring comfort and strength to the relatives and friends of those who serve.
When they are grieving the loss of their loved ones,
may they know your compassionate and comforting presence.
When they are separated from one another
due to deployments or other operational requirements,
may their bonds be strengthened.
When their lives are uprooted because they are posted to a new location
and everything is new all over again,
may they be upheld by the constancy of your steadfast love.
Accompany them in their daily joys and protect them in difficulties.

May our act of remembrance this day
honour those who have put themselves in harm's way for the safety of others.
May we never forget their sacrifice,
the families who grieve for them and support them,
and their example of integrity, loyalty, courage, and duty.

As people of faith, we re-commit ourselves to work together for peace in our world.
May the hope that we carry in our hearts
lead us to seek new and creative ways to resolve our differences.

We look forward to that day when your reign is fully realized among us and swords are turned into plowshares and nation no longer lifts up sword against nation.

We also long for the moment when mourning, suffering, and sickness are no more. Until that day comes, we ask that you respond to us when we lift before you in the silence of our hearts the names of those people, places, and situations that are in need of your tender loving care this day...*(moment of silent prayer)*... Restore them to health and wholeness, O God.

We ask all these things in the name of the One who came to show us your ways and who taught us to pray together, 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 Step toward Peace



One of the things we can do to promote peace is share what we have to ensure that everyone has enough. That's why your generosity through Mission & Service supports economic development programs that offer things like micro-loans and business training and support to purchase equipment.

Leila Basheer is a 46-year-old mother of five who lives in a village in the northwestern part of the West Bank in Palestine. Leila's husband is in poor health, which makes it hard to get by. Since she

was a child, Leila has been preserving carob paste, which helps with upset stomach. Four years ago, as her family struggled, she had the idea to sell her carob paste. But processing it by hand is labour-intensive so she turned to DSPR—the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees—for help.

“As I made some profit from local sales, I decided to expand. DSPR helped me out with buying grinding equipment that facilitated making carob paste enormously,” she says.

The outcome is amazing. Not only can Leila produce high-quality paste but her income has also grown. “The grinding equipment helped me increase my income by 40 percent. I look forward to buying a second grinding machine, this time to produce tomato paste,” says Leila.

Palestinians in the West Bank are subject to complex systems of control. These systems of control include physical barriers like the Separation Wall, checkpoints, and roadblocks, and bureaucratic ones like permits and closure of areas. These restrict Palestinians’ right to freedom of movement. The Israeli occupation has confiscated thousands of dunums (1 dunum = 1,000 square metres) of land from Palestinian farmers to build illegal settlements, bypass roads, and build the Separation Wall. Moreover, the checkpoints, roadblocks, and crop destruction create extreme challenges for farmers attempting to reach their land and their markets.

Every step we take to support families like Leila’s brings us a step closer to peace and justice. Thank you for your generosity through Mission & Service.

Offering Invitation *Written by United Church of Canada military chaplain Captain (Rev.) Nathan Wright. © 2021 The United Church of Canada/L’Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice.*

Each day of our lives we are presented with opportunities to respond to God’s love and give of ourselves in faithful service. There are many ways to give, each according to our own abilities, with all gifts working together for the sake of the mission and ministry entrusted to us by God. You are now invited to give, as you are able, to support the work of this community of faith.

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.46. Used with permission.*

Just as the poppies of Flanders' fields display life and beauty,
may you, O God, bless what we offer back to you from our abundance.
In that blessing, O Christ, may what we scatter abroad in your name
become sources of new life and of beauty for an aching world,
rooted in your peace, which passes all understanding. Amen.

Hymn: God of Freedom, God of Justice **VU 700**

- 1 God of freedom, God of justice,
you whose love is strong as death,
you who saw the dark of prison,
you who knew the price of faith:
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.

- 2 Rid the earth of torture's terror,
you whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest,
you who shed the tears and blood:
move in us the power of pity
restless for the common good.

- 3 Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed:
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.

Commissioning *Carol Frost, Gathering: Pentecost 1 2015, p.45. Used with permission.*

Let us go trusting in God's never-ending care.
Let us go seeking to be God's people.
Let us go living out the qualities of integrity, loyalty, courage and duty.
Let us go enfolded in praise and prayer.
Let us go to be people of peace, justice, and right relationships. Amen.

Change the Light

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

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

May our eternal God— *Rev. 21:6*
the Alpha and Omega,
the first and the last,
the beginning and the end—
be with you this day
and forevermore. **Alleluia!**

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

Dear God,
bless the labors of my hands today
so that you might get the glory. Amen.

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

Gracious God,
thank you for blessing me throughout the day.
Please grant me a restful sleep, as I put my trust in you. Amen.