



January 30, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
January 30, 2022
The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, the Light of the World.

We gather in community today – January 30, 2022 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. For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

As we gather this day, in the season after Epiphany, we focus on the gifts we have received from God, and how to offer our response.

Announcements

- **Update from Your Fun, Funds & Fellowship Committee:** On Dec 18/21 we held a Christmas Bake Sale, Plus. We sold out of our famous meat pies for \$1000. Our Bake Sale was fantastic, with \$1586 going to Melville's coffers. (\$150 of that was attributed to Christmas Decorations sold). Throughout the Christmas season, our Memory Angels decorated Our Sanctuary, "In Memory" of our loved ones. These Angels were handmade by ladies of our congregation and were inscribed on the skirt with the names of both parties involved. These Angels bring comfort to the families involved and add a unique presence for our Sanctuary. Donations for the Angels this year was \$880! We are ecstatic with the results of both of these events. We thank everyone involved in both of these ventures! Blessings!
- **Week of Guided Prayer and Spiritual Exploration**
February 27 to March 5, 2022
Hope and Resilience in Uncertain Times Presented by the Guelph Ecumenical Guild of Ignatian Spiritual Direction. Enrich your spiritual life. The Week of Guided Prayer is an opportunity to learn more about prayer, explore your spirituality, and develop and deepen a relationship with God. Listening, reflection and awareness are at the heart of the Week. Information and registration at www.guidedprayer.webs.com **Register by Feb. 21, 2022**
- **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 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.

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

Land 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: *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1.** Copyright 2012.*

God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

Ps. 19:1

God calls us to be builders as well.

God calls us to build our lives:

to restore broken places and continue to grow.

God calls us to build our faith:

to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.

Neh. 8:8

God calls us to build our community:

to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.

God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

to preach the good news of God's love and liberation for all people.

Luke 4:18

Hymn: Praise with Joy the World's Creator **VU 312**

- 1 Praise with joy the world's Creator,
 God of justice, love, and peace,
 source and end of human knowledge,
 God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
 power to rescue and release.

- 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
 frees the captive, finds the lost,
 heals the sick, upsets religion,
 fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
 friend and stranger, guest and host.

- 3 Praise the Spirit sent among us,
 liberating truth from pride,
 forging bonds where race or gender,
 age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:
 foolishness none dare deride.

- 4 Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
 one God in community,
 calling Christians to embody
 oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected:
 God is One and One in Three.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Catherine Tovell, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.45. Used with permission.*

**Gracious God, we come today to worship you,
confident as always that you are with us.
You receive our prayers, our laments, and our celebrations.
As we gather today, make us one in spirit and one in body
as you yourself were embodied in the person of Jesus,
in whose name we pray and worship. Amen.**

Ministry of Music: "Channels Only" by Ada Rose Gibbs, *played by Colleen Weber*

Call to Reconciliation *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for January 23, 2022 (Third Sunday after Epiphany – C). Used with permission.*

We are afraid to join hands with others;
we want to listen to those who speak falsely;
we glibly offer silliness to those we love the most.
Let us share with God how we have not been that Body we are made for,
that God might reshape us into that holy community, even as we pray together, saying,

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Cheryl Stenson, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.47. Used with permission, alt.*

Creator God, clues to the vastness of your very nature
are everywhere around us on this rich Earth.
They are our assurance that we have been and continue to be given
not just enough but an abundance of everything we need, in all the ways we need.

Why do we doubt what we experience? Why fear, not faith?

Counsellor God, the life of generosity we are asked to lead
is our piece of the puzzle that fulfills your plan.

We are one global family and there is enough, and more—for us all.

Why do we doubt what we know? Why fear, not faith?

Divine God, our cup runneth over but we claim thirst.
We betray you in miserly behaviour, physically and spiritually,
and do not reflect the grace that is in us and of you.

Why do we doubt what we have already received? Why fear, not faith?

We notice our failings, but we are offered the path to overcoming them as well.
Grant us the courage to do right by you and by each other,
abandoning fear and living in faith.

May it be so through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance *Christine Jerrett, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.47. Used with permission.*

Know that you are forgiven for
we are Christ's people,
immersed in God's great love for all the world.

We are Christ's people,
made new by God's amazing grace.

We are Christ's people,
gifted with peace to share with all.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (NRSV)

Now you are the body of Christ

One Body with Many Members

For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—
Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—
and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.
If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body',
that would not make it any less a part of the body.
And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body',
that would not make it any less a part of the body.
If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?
If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?
But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.
If all were a single member, where would the body be?
As it is, there are many members, yet one body.
The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you',
nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'
On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,
and those members of the body that we think less honourable
we clothe with greater honour,
and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;
whereas our more respectable members do not need this.
But God has so arranged the body,
giving the greater honour to the inferior member,
that there may be no dissension within the body,
but the members may have the same care for one another.
If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;
if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

And God has appointed in the church

first apostles,
second prophets,
third teachers;
then deeds of power,
then gifts of healing,
forms of assistance,
forms of leadership,
various kinds of tongues.

Are all apostles?

Are all prophets?

Are all teachers?

Do all work miracles?

Do all possess gifts of healing?
Do all speak in tongues?
Do all interpret?
But strive for the greater gifts.

“...In the Midst”

Members of the One Body



My friend sews—a lot—and there are many pieces of fabric laying around her sewing room. Now, being very amateur at sewing, there are lots of the pieces of fabric that she has that I would designate to the ragbag or the garbage, mostly because of their size. But she has made use of them in purses and bags and quilts. What seem to me like little scraps! They do have bright colours and beautiful patterns, but so small as to be seemingly worthless.



Sometimes what she uses is fabric that was a dress or shirt or coat or pair of jeans. She carefully washes the item, takes it apart, using the most interesting bits like a pocket or lapel or seam or label, and finds whimsical ways of piecing something new, something beautiful, something functional, something warm and comfortable and comforting.



Each of these bits of fabric is important. They all have unique qualities. On their own, they are nothing much, but brought together, with the synergy that makes of something more than the sum of its parts, they create an almost unimaginable whole.

Paul speaks of us in a similar way. Each of us given a gift, which may seem of limited utility on its own. But when we become aware of these gifts, when we learn how to use them, when they are brought together, are pieced and knit together, they form something beautiful, strong, helpful, healing, inspiring—the Body of Christ. We all are called to bring our gifts from God, our pieces and their potential, and with Christ and the Spirit, to shape them into a justice-making whole.

As we see small bits of colour, as we come to know our gifts, may we see God's potential in them.

May we find God in the midst of all our days.

Hymn: We Are One

VU 402

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

- 2 We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.

- 4 We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.

Scripture:

Prayer *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1**. Copyright 2012, alt.*

Gracious God,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
quicken our understanding
that we may receive the wisdom of Scripture
and believe in the signs that reveal your presence.
We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

John 2:11

Scripture: Luke 4:14-21 (NRSV)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me"

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee,
and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.
He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up,
he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom.

He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.

He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

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 C, Volume 1.** Copyright 2012.*

Holy God,

through signs of grace you reveal your glory to all the world.

Open our eyes to the hidden and surprising wonders you perform,

that we may believe with our minds

and trust in our hearts

that you alone are Lord of all creation.

Though Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. **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: Inaugural Address



“We live as a loving, inclusive faith community actively welcoming and responding to needs within and outside of our church.”

“As companions, guided by the Spirit, Melville United Church will be a loving, compassionate, and inclusive Christian community; actively service as Christ’s hands, as Jesus teaches us.”

“We are a multi-age community of faith, welcoming those who are exploring Christianity we journey together to seek justice, serve others with love and kindness and walk humbly with our God.

- Celebrating God’s love, our worship is active and expressed in a variety of ways every day.
- Because God loves us, we love through pastoral care, community care, and global outreach.
- We nurture spiritual growth and caring relationships for all ages.
- We embrace and encourage the talents and contributions of all.
- We strive to be faithful stewards of God’s creation and gifts.”

These words may not be familiar to you, but hopefully they will become so soon. They are the mission, vision and values statements approved by Melville’s church council at the meeting in January. As you may know, a group of people had been working for some time to revisit and if necessary, revise the mission, vision and values statements of our congregation, to reflect the congregation we are now, ministering to our community today.

These statements are a little like what Jesus is doing in the synagogue in Nazareth, as he reads the Torah and speaks publicly for the first time in his ministry. It is the tradition of synagogue worship that adult worshipers would be invited to read from the Scriptures and offer comment. And so Jesus does. He unrolls the scroll, finds the text he wishes to share, and reads from Isaiah 61:1-2 a passage from the Servants Songs of the prophet. He begins to read, “the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me.” This refers to his commission by the Spirit to serve as Christ and Messiah.

The prophetic text from Isaiah is the means by which Jesus announces the character of his mission:
“to bring good news to the poor...
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” (vv. 18-19)

Then Jesus rolls up the scroll, hands it to the attendant and sits down, in the traditional way for one to teach. He looks up at the gathered worshipers and says, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” To us it might sound a bit audacious, to claim for oneself that that one is **The One** who is anointed by God, and who is going to do all these momentous things in Galilee and beyond.

Not only that, but, Jesus says, “**today** this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” As in, you’re looking at the one who is going to make all this happen, in **my** time; not “someday,” not “maybe” or “in the future,” but **today**. It is clearly an inaugural address.



Photo Credit: [Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff](#) from Washington D.C, United States - [210120-D-WD757-2531](#)

In recent times there has been another inaugural address, offered on behalf of the newly sworn-in American president, by the former National Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman. Perhaps you remember seeing video of that memorable, brilliantly sunny day when Amanda Gorman offered these words, “Where can we find light in this never-ending shade?” And then offers thoughts about how the light might be found:

We are striving to forge our union with purpose,
To compose a country committed
To all cultures, colors, characters,
And conditions of man.

...

We close the divide

...

We lay down our arms
So that we can reach our arms out to one another.
We seek harm to none, and harmony for all.

...

If we're to live up to our own time, then victory
Won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.

...

So while once we asked: How could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?
Now we assert: How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

...

We will not march back to what was,
But move to what shall be

...

One thing is certain:
If we merge mercy with might, and might with right,
Then love becomes our legacy,
And change, our children's birthright.

We will rebuild, reconcile and recover

...

The new dawn blooms as we free it,
For there is always light,
If only we're brave enough to see it,
If only we're brave enough to be it.

This inaugural statement of hope, peace and justice echos Jesus' inaugural statement of good news, release, recovery, freedom and the year of the Lord's favour. As Jesus lives out his mission statement, he shows us through his own gifts and faith, that it is only by letting go of reliance on military and might, that it is only by unconditional mercy and giving, sacrificing love, divine light, that he will lead us to freedom, release, fulfilment of all that we are.



And we, the people of Melville, by naming our gifts:

our variety of ages

activity

welcome

togetherness

service

love

care

nurture

humility

faith

stewardship

we set the intention, offer our mission and vision and values, to do our part.

But perhaps the greatest gift of all, is the gift of Jesus' life, given to demonstrate the astonishing extent of God's love, God's care, for this creation and all whom God has created to live and flourish within it. For Jesus' gift of himself is the source of our light, our energy, our commitment. And we have the Spirit to enliven, empower, renew us when we wonder, when we waver, when we wilt. We are never asked to do any part of God's mission for us alone.

As Jesus names his mission, as we hear the intentions of a new order in the world, as we consider our own calling, may we know these gifts and more have been given us by the generous, loving, compassionate God, not that we may take them and tuck them away in storage, but live them, use them, offer them to whoever is in need; not someday, but today, as we work with God to bring about not just a year, but the eternity of God's kin-dom.

For in life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us, we are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Hymn: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say VU 626

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
 your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
 weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
 and he has made me glad.

- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
 stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
 in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
 till travelling days are done.

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 of the People *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 41, p. 80. Copyright 2021, alt.*

God of prophets and apostles,
you call us to restore that which is broken
and to proclaim your vision of a world made new.
Create in us new hearts and strong voices as we pray.
God, fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for those who have been anointed or chosen
as leaders of people,
that they may attend to the voices of their people and
be guided by you.
God, fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for pastors and teachers of the church,
that they may faithfully interpret your Word for others.
God, fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for those who are poor and in need of assistance,
and for ourselves,
that we may open our hearts to their cries for help.
God, fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for those who are the captives of war and
the victims of violence;
may we bring them good news both in word and deed.
God, fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for those with physical challenges and
spiritual struggles;
make us agents of healing and hope.
God, fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for those who are oppressed by powers
beyond their control;
give us courage to work to set them free.
God, fill us with the power of your Spirit.

God of the Jubilee,
make us the body of the risen Christ,
united, in all our diversity.
Animate us by your Holy Spirit
that together we may work
toward your coming kingdom.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

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:



Haiti: How Your Generosity Is Helping

Last August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Haiti. This disaster killed at least 2,248 people and injured more than 12,700. It destroyed buildings and infrastructure, impacting hundreds of thousands of people. Days later, Tropical Storm Grace compounded the situation, bringing heavy rains that triggered mudslides. Since the earthquake, a severe fuel shortage, growing insecurity, and increasing water shortages have hampered efforts to restore basic services to thousands in need across the country.

In the five months since the earthquake struck, Mission & Service partners have been working hard to respond to the emergency. Through them, your generous gifts to the Haiti Emergency Appeal is helping people rebuild their lives.

Your support has provided

- medical supplies and first aid kits
- water treatment tablets
- temporary shelters
- food packages of rice, beans, and cooking oil
- tools, seeds, and livestock for families and farmers
- hygienic sanitation services
- access to safe water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene
- rehabilitated or reconstructed earthquake- and hurricane-resistant houses
- psychological support

This list consists mostly of things. Imagine their impact on people—on families like yours!

Imagine what it means when your life has been turned upside down to have a place to turn to for a meal, somewhere to lay your head, and later to have support to rebuild your home and someone in your life to talk to about what you have been through.

This is the difference your generosity makes.

Thank you for caring.

Offering Invitation *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1.** Copyright 2012.*

Each one of us is essential
to the life and well-being of the whole body of Christ.
So we come now to share our gifts and resources
in order to care for one another
and, without dissension,
for the world Christ came to save.

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 *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for January 23, 2022 (Third Sunday after Epiphany – C). Used with permission.*

Though many different amounts and ways,
when gathered up by you,
our gifts become a food pantry,
a rebuilt life,
medicine for children,
a caregiver to the lonely –
your grace in action.
In love we offer these gifts in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: O for a World **VU 697**

- 1 O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.
- 2 O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.
- 3 We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.
- 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.
- 5 O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

Commissioning *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for January 23, 2022 (Third Sunday after Epiphany – C). Used with permission.*

Now, we are scattered by our God,
to go carry grace into a broken world.
Now, Jesus scatters us,
**to bring justice to the outsiders,
to visit all who are alone and lonely.**
Now, filled with the Spirit, we are scattered,
**to gather up the dispirited,
to take hold of the lost and embrace them as family.**

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.

Blessing *The United Church Publishing House, **Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada. Copyright 2000. Used with permission.***

May the blessing of God,
the giver of every good and perfect gift;
and of Christ, who summons us to service;
and of the Holy Spirit, who inspires generosity and love,
be with us all.

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®**
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Holy One, thank you for the gift of this new day.
Help me to stay attentive to your creation
and mindful of your teachings
as I travel through it.
Empower me to see and spread
the good news of your grace for all people. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®**
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Holy One, thank you for the gift of today.
Thank you for all the ways that I saw your glory
and learned your teachings,
beyond speech and words,
in the course of this day.
As I drift to sleep this night,
draw me closer to you,
my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

Ps. 19:3