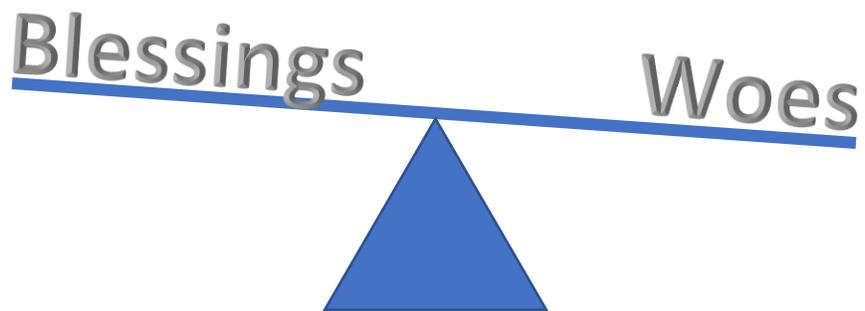




Celebrating
176 Years



February 20, 2022

Melville United Church

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

Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M 2W7

519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach	Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Faith Formation & Youth	Martha Duncan
Ministry of Music Team	Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber
Office Administrator	Lynda Rivet
Custodian	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council	Allan Hons
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Office hours	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.
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Pastoral Care Numbers	709-682-8756, 519-843-3841

Melville United Church
February 20, 2022
The Seventh 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 – February 20, 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. We encourage people to come out to worship in the sanctuary. Double vaccinations, masking and hand sanitizing are all required to ensure the safety of all in attendance, and there is ample space for people to maintain social distancing. 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

- **Proposed Development Next Door** - As many of you are aware, there is a proposed development in the very early stages of the approval process next door. Melville council is actively engaging with legal counsel to defend Melville's interests as this matter progresses. Council will provide additional information as the situation progresses and details become clearer.
- **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.
- **Trinity United presents Roast Beef in the Springtime ...** A Drive Through, Take Out Dining Experience – Thursday, March 31st – in collaboration with Jesse's at the Guelph Country Club. Including roast beef, honey glazed carrots, peas, coleslaw, mashed potatoes & gravy and Trinity's own chocolate brownie with raspberry coulis. Cost is \$25/dinner. Order by March 26 by calling Kathy at 519-829-9622 or emailing kathyrobertstephens@gmail.com. Pick up is between 4:15-6:30 pm.
- **Job Opportunity - Church Office Coordinator**
Trinity United Church, Guelph is looking to hire a Church Office Coordinator to oversee the administrative process of Trinity United Church and ensure that church operations function efficiently and with accountability. We are looking for someone who is able to communicate with compassion and be able to deal with families who may be in crisis and refer them to the proper staff. This is a 25 hour per week position with enrollment in the United Church Pension Plan and Group Insurance. If interested, please forward resume to mandp@trinityunitedguelph.ca.

- **World Day of Prayer 2022**

Each year, since 1927, a different host country has prepared the content of the World Day of Prayer service, highlighting its country's culture and regional justice issues. The 2022 service was written by the England, Wales and Northern Ireland World Day of Prayer Committee and adapted for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Viewers from all over the country will be able to virtually unite in prayer and action. We invite you to watch the video of the service available at <https://wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer-2022-service-video/> on or near Friday, March 4th.

- **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: *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 41, p. 116. Copyright 2021, alt.*

Gathered,

not in order of rank,

title, or wealth,

but blessed by the God

for whom all are equal.

Gathered,

not because we are special

or live life mistake-free,

but blessed by the God

for whom all are equal.

Touched today

by the Spirit of God,

whether here in-person

or remote worshipping.

Blessed by the God

for whom all are equal.

Hymn: Amazing Grace

VU 266

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
 that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 and grace my fears relieved;
 how precious did that grace appear
 the hour I first believed.

- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Opening Prayer: *Mavis J.A. Peddie, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.45. Used with permission.*

Eternal God, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever,

meet with us now.

Jesus the Christ, who has died, who is risen, and who will come again,

meet with us now.

Holy Spirit, given to teach us and to remind us of all Jesus said,

meet with us now.

In the name of our triune God, we pray.

Amen.

Ministry of Music: "My Saviour's Love" by Charles H. Gabriel, *played by Colleen Weber*

Call to Reconciliation *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for February 13, 2022 (Epiphany 6 – C). Used with permission.*

Now, if what we hear from the world is true,
we would have no need to come before God.

But in fact, the witness of scripture, and of the faithful, is true.

God is to be trusted with every secret of our hearts,

as well as offered our brokenness.

Join me as we pray to the One who waits to forgive us.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for February 13, 2022 (Epiphany 6 – C). Used with permission, alt.*

**We confess what we are afraid to face, Blessing God,
that the seductions of this world gnaw away at our hearts.**

**We have more and more to choose from at the market,
and so we forget those whose only choice is hunger.**

**Our sense that we are your favorites
causes us to make fun of those we are convinced are not.**

**We are so consumed with saving enough for the future,
we overlook those who have so little this day.**

Forgive us, Heartbroken God,

for thinking we are the center of your world.
Pour your living water into us,
so we might send down roots deep into your heart,
and so become those people who are blessings to others,
as we have received the gift of new life from Jesus the Christ, our Saviour.

Silence is kept

Words of Assurance *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for February 13, 2022 (Epiphany 6 – C). Used with permission, alt.*

Blessed are you:
for God forgives you and restores you to new life.
Rejoice in this day and dance for joy!

Thanks be to God!

**Our faith is true,
and our hope is grounded in the promises
of the One we can trust not only on this day,
but in every day to come. Amen.**

“...In the Midst”



“Here I Am” Prayer from *Teresa A. Blyth, 50 Ways to Pray: Practices from Many Traditions and Times*

If you are a beginner to contemplative prayer or if you want to get back to basics, there is no better place to start than with this simple prayer adapted from Anthony Bloom’s classic *Beginning to Pray*. Bloom, a Russian orthodox archbishop who died in 2003, wrote this short book in 1970, and it continue to be an inspiration today. In his chapter “Managing Time,” Bloom describes this prayer exercise in narrative form. I’ve broken it down into steps. It is so simple and short that it can be used daily as a prelude to other prayer practices.

Intention:

To be here now in prayer.

The Exercise:

- Resolve to be in prayer for at least five minutes. Do not answer the phone or allow yourself to be distracted from your goal.
- Be seated and say to yourself, “Here I am seated, doing nothing. I will do nothing for five minutes” (or longer depending on the time you set for yourself).
- Begin noticing your own bodily presence—how your body feels next to the chair; how your feet feel against the floor. Relax your body. Notice what you feel inside.
- Now notice the presence of all that is around you. Say to yourself, “Here I am in the presence of the room (garden, chapel, wherever you are).” Be aware of the furniture, walls and any pets or people in the room. Just be present and silent in your environment. Relax even more.
- Now say to yourself, “Here I am in the presence of God,” Repeat silently to God, “Here I am.” Bask in the presence of the Holy One until your time goal has been reached.

Tip:

Feel free to move the steps around. You may want to start by noticing God’s presence. The progression would also move from your environment to your body to God’s presence. I find that I usually need to settle my body down first in order to be still enough to be present to God.

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

Hymn: Jesus Stand Among Us

VU 396

- 1 Jesus, stand among us
in your risen power;
let this time of worship
be a hallowed hour.
- 2 Breathe the Holy Spirit
into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows
from each soul depart.
- 3 Lead our hearts to wisdom
till our doubting cease,
and to all assembled
speak your word of peace.

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.*

Creator God, you created us with free will
and freedom of choice.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
speak your Word though the words of scripture,
that we may live according to your will;
through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:5-10 (NRSV)

Those who trust in God are like trees planted by water

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.
They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Scripture: Luke 6:17-26 (NRSV)

The Beatitudes upon the plain

Jesus Teaches and Heals

He came down with them and stood on a level place,
with a great crowd of his disciples
and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.
They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases;
and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.
And all in the crowd were trying to touch him,
for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Blessings and Woes

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.
'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven;
for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

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.*

God of life, in Christ you resurrect all things.

Raise us from death to life,

that our transformation may bear witness

to the power of your grace in our lives

through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead.

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:

Hymn: Blessed Disturbance! *by J. Mary Henderson – to the tune of Blessed Assurance*

1. Blessed disturbance! God speaks the Word.

'Let there be light!' in the darkness is heard.

Cosmic explosion; life has begun.

Praise to Creator, Spirit and Son!

Sunshine by day and moonlight by night;

everything new is a source of delight.

Fish in the oceans, birds in the trees;

woman and man give thanks for all these.

2. Blessed disturbance! Prophets proclaim
warnings of judgement in God's holy name.

Poor folk exploited; rich ones don't care.

In righteous anger, Yahweh is there!

'I hate your feasts!' says the God who is just;

'Sort out your lives, then pray if you must.'

'My law is love', says the God who is good;

'Care for the poor, then pray as you should.'

3. Blessed disturbance! 'Come, follow me.
Leave what is past—create what's to be.'
Sinners respond while good folk say 'no';
praise to the Son for making it so!

*Goodbye to riches; welcome true wealth!
Goodbye to sickness; welcome true health!
Goodbye to all that binds us to earth;
goodbye religion—welcome new birth!*

4. Blessed disturbance! God's here to stay,
subtly transforming work, rest and play.
Spirit of justice, laughter and love,
wily as serpent, gentle as dove.

*God of surprises, disturb us again;
speak to our fears with your presence, and then,
Heavenly Gadfly, sting us to life!
Help at our birthing, heav'nly Midwife.*

Joys and Concerns

- Melville United Church was recognized by Heritage Centre Wellington at its awards ceremony this week (Heritage Week) for the work done on the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary with the Heritage Property Conservation Award. Graeme Chalmers received a Volunteer Acknowledgement Award for his years of service to the community with respect to heritage preservation and history.

Not only that, but Mary Lloyd was present as chair of the Wellington County Library Board to receive the Making Heritage Accessible Award for the addition to the Fergus library done in 2014.

Neil Dunsmore was there as Deputy Mayor of Centre Wellington, and Allan Hons and Barry Rawn were in attendance to receive the award for Melville.

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. 117. Copyright 2021, alt.*

Wise and generous God,
we take time today
to do as the old hymn suggests,
and 'count our blessings',
naming them silently, one by one,
and giving thanks to you,
the source of all that is good,
and of the deep-down happiness
for which we long.

We give thanks for the obvious blessings,

never to be taken for granted:
for good health when we have it,
and access to medical care;
for food in our bellies and a safe place to live;
for people who care about us
and for whom we can care;
for freedom to dress and speak and worship
as we choose, without fear of persecution.

But we are grateful also for the curious blessings
recognised as such only with hindsight:
for losses that help us see what really matters;
for vulnerability that enables us to reach out in love;
for our weakness that forces us to depend on you;
for brushes with death that have helped us value life more.

Loving God, you want all your children
to live lives that are full and worthwhile,
and we pray for those for whom each day
is a struggle to survive, never mind thrive;
for those who are trapped in poverty
and cannot see that ever changing;
those who so not have enough to eat,
and those who overeat to bury their unhappiness;
those who are shamed and humiliated
for being who they are,
and those who do the shaming.

God of justice and mercy,
there is so much that is
wrong with our world,
which is also your world.
We long for the coming of the Kingdom
that Jesus talked about so much,
and by whose standards
he lived his life on earth:
giving in order to receive;
letting go in order to find;
dying in order to live.

Not lightly, but as honestly as we can,
we pray for that Kingdom to come,
knowing that if our prayer
were to be answered,
it might cost us dearly.
Grant us your blessing, we pray,
and enjoy the chaotic turmoil that ensues
as we discover exactly what that means.
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: Support Canadian Families

Photo Credit: Pixabay, pedro_wroclaw

In the last two years, visits to Canadian food banks have climbed 20 percent. Today, over 33 percent of foodbank users are children. For families already struggling, there's no relief in sight. Food prices are set to rise another 5 to 7 percent this year. Record numbers of families are turning to our Mission & Service partners for support.

That's why on February 21—as many provinces celebrate Family Day—Mission & Service is launching a special appeal to support Canadian families. Your gift of just \$25 will provide a family of four with a warm, nutritious meal. \$50 will support a family with two meals. \$175 will ensure a family can eat a good, healthy meal every day of the week.

Whether you are celebrating Family Day, Heritage Day, or if it's just another day, let's make February 21 a day of generosity. If you are able, please make [a special gift \(opens in a new tab\)](#) to help families, and make sure your friends know there is an opportunity to give. With new variants, rolling school closures, lockdowns, fear, and uncertainty, families are more stressed than ever. It doesn't cost a lot to show we care.

Above all, let us pray for families:

O God, bless our families.

Bless parents who are on edge balancing parenting and work responsibilities.

Bless those who feel isolated and alone without childcare supports.

Bless parents who are physically and mentally drained.

Bless those who are unable to find or afford safe housing and stable jobs.

Bless those giving it their all to approach this time with creativity and compassion.
Bless children who feel the uncertainty of these days most acutely.
Bless those living in unsafe home environments.
Bless young people who are missing friends and gatherings.
Bless teens who grieve the loss of graduation celebrations, who have delayed further education and work opportunities, and who are waiting for driver's tests.
Bless families facing financial insecurity, struggling to put food on the table.
Bless all experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges.
Bless those waiting for vaccinations and tests, worried about staying or recovering well.
Bless families to express warmth, caring, patience, forgiveness, and love toward one another.
Bless them to know it's okay to not be okay, and to reach out for support.
Bless them with the peace and grace of your holy spirit.
Bless them to know they aren't alone.
Amen.

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.*

Luke tells us that people came to Jesus from all directions,
seeking healing and peace.
We are the body of Christ,
surrounded by the many needs of the world around us.
So bring your tithes and offerings,
that these gifts may foster healing and encourage peace.

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

Holy One, bless and multiply these gifts we give
as tokens of our trust in you.
Use them to bless the poor,
feed the hungry, and comfort those who weep;
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Hymn: All the Way My Saviour Leads Me

VU 635

- 1 All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

- 2 All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!

- 3 All the way my Saviour leads me;
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
'Jesus led me all the way!'

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

Consider this day
the ways in which you are falsely consoled
and uncomfortably full.
Consider today how casual attitudes
turn us aside from tears too deep for words.
Consider this day the kingdom
and the strange blessing it promises.

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

May the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
nourish and sustain us,
surprise and reorder us,
and strengthen us in faith and hope for this life and the life to come.

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

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of this new day.
Guide my steps as I face choices to care for the earth or not,
to show compassion toward others or not, to care for myself or not,
to be true to Christ or not.
May each of my choices draw me closer to you. Amen.

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

Tonight I come home to you in prayer, my God.
Thank you for guiding me through this day,
even when I was not conscious of it.
Now I give this day back to you,
entrusting all that I did and all that I left undone
to your compassionate care.
May I rest in peace. Amen.