



**Celebrating**  
**176 Years**



**February 27, 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
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Office hours	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.
E-Mail	<a href="mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com">secretary@melvilleunited.com</a>
Web Site	<a href="http://www.melvilleunited.com">www.melvilleunited.com</a>
Pastoral Care Numbers	709-682-8756, 519-843-3841

**Melville United Church**  
**February 27, 2022**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**

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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 27, 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, on Transfiguration Sunday, we consider the gift of God's light shining on, in and through the One who shows us the way, and frees us from what holds us bound.*

**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.

- **Lenten Study**

**Lesser Evils** is a daily devotion/meditation book for Lent this year, and is available through [ucrdstore.ca](http://ucrdstore.ca) currently as an e-book for \$7.95 and hopefully soon as a softcover book for \$15.95. Have a look at the website if you are interested. There is also an online study webinar through United in Learning that will take place on Tuesdays at 1pm from March 8<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup>. Registration costs \$44.99 with \$5 off if you pay online, and you will also receive a 20% off coupon for the book.

- **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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. 134. Copyright 2021, alt.*

Inescapable God,  
majestic and bright,  
**shine upon us.**

Immeasurable God,  
majestic and bright,  
**shine upon us.**

Transcendent God,  
majestic and bright,  
**shine upon us.**

Everlasting God,  
majestic and bright,  
**shine upon us.**

Let your light be found,  
**reach into us**  
**illuminating our souls,**  
**as we worship together.**

**Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy**

**VU 315**

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
  
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
  
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.
  
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth  
and sky and sea;  
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**Opening Prayer:** *Jim McKean, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.51-52. Used with permission.*

O God,  
**we come today to refresh and to restore all that is within our hearts and minds.**  
**Like the disciples climbing the mountain with Jesus,**  
**we come expecting nothing yet prepared to experience your love.**  
**During this time together, may we find our true selves**  
**just as Jesus' true self was revealed on the mountaintop.**  
**May we find your wisdom, and its strength,**  
**for we know that your love restores and refreshes us in mysterious ways.**  
**O God, fill us anew. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music** "The Days of Elijah" words and music by Robin Mark *sung by Spirit Sings*

**Call to Reconciliation** *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for February 27, 2022 (Transfiguration – C). Used with permission.*

Sometimes we wait for God to astound us with whirlwinds of wonders,  
while God silently offers us grace.  
God waits to forgive us,  
so let us hold nothing back,  
but place our trust in the One who listens to our prayers and answers us with mercy.

**Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison)** *Robin Wardlaw, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.52. Used with permission.*

**Life-giver, Pain-bearer, your people wait and listen.**

**Declare your word of triumph, your word of patience, your word of love.**

**We are in the depths; we are at the summit.**

**We are united and strong in our purpose; we are divided and weak.**

**We wait for your healing; we pay attention for your approach.**

**We brood over pain, our divisions, our lack of faith.**

**We confess to you and to each other our failure to be bold in our hope,  
open in sharing the love we know through Jesus.**

*(a time of silent prayer)*

**Words of Assurance** *Robin Wardlaw, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.52. Used with permission.*

Since it is by God's mercy that we engage in the ministry to which we are called,  
we do not lose heart.

We dare to be bold in our hope, and bold in living and sharing our faith.

Accept now God's abundant gift of grace, and be at peace.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**"...In the Midst"**



Transfiguration shows the disciples and us the glory of Jesus, and helps to clarify who he is – both human and divine.

Solar garden lights might be one way of reminding ourselves of the light of Christ, and the love of God.



The solar light has one end that is “planted” in the garden, and we might think of that as taking root in God’s creation.

The other end receives light – the light of the sun, or light of the Son. The light is then powered to work, to shine and shed light for those in need.



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

**Hymn: Fairest Lord Jesus****VU 341**

- 1 \* Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down:  
thee will I cherish, thee will I honour,  
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.  
  
\* or 'Beautiful Saviour'
- 2 Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
who makes the troubled heart to sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and fair the twinkling, starry host;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.
- 4 All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly,  
wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;  
none can be nearer, fairer or dearer  
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.

**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.*

By your Spirit, O God,  
enlighten our hearts, open our minds,  
fill our vision with your radiance,  
and give us life,  
as we hear your Word today. **Amen.**

**Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35 (NRSV)**

*Moses is radiant as he comes down the mountain*

***The Shining Face of Moses***

Moses came down from Mount Sinai.  
As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand,  
Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone  
because he had been talking with God.  
When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses,  
the skin of his face was shining,  
and they were afraid to come near him.  
But Moses called to them;  
and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him,  
and Moses spoke with them.  
Afterwards all the Israelites came near,  
and he gave them in commandment  
all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.  
When Moses had finished speaking with them,

he put a veil on his face;  
but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him,  
he would take the veil off, until he came out;  
and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,  
the Israelites would see the face of Moses,  
that the skin of his face was shining;  
and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

**Scripture: Luke 9:28-36, (37-43) (NRSV)**

*Jesus is transfigured upon the mountain*

*The Transfiguration*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James,  
and went up on the mountain to pray.  
And while he was praying,  
the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.  
Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.  
They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure,  
which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.  
Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep;  
but since they had stayed awake,  
they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.  
Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus,  
'Master, it is good for us to be here;  
let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—  
not knowing what he said.  
While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them;  
and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.  
Then from the cloud came a voice that said,  
'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'  
When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.  
And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

*Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon*

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him.  
Just then a man from the crowd shouted,  
'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child.  
Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks.  
It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth;  
it mauls him and will scarcely leave him.  
I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.'  
Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation,  
how much longer must I be with you and bear with you?  
Bring your son here.'  
While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions.  
But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.  
And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

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, present in our midst yet beyond all comprehension,  
by your light, we see light;  
by your healing, we are made whole;  
by your mercy, we know your greatness.  
Turn your gaze upon our weakness and show us the way of your love  
that we may live with unveiled faces,  
through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one 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: Breaking the Chains**



I'm out and about our neighbourhood a fair bit, walking the dog and driving to and from work. And I've noticed a lot of Canadian flags. Some are the small ones, with a hook that goes over a window in the back door of a car—the kind like team flags in seasons past: Maple Leafs or Habs, Blue Jays or Raptors. I've seen countries' flags flown for World Cups and for the Olympics.

I thought that's what I was seeing this time, but then I had to wonder. What about the 3' x 5' Canadian flags? Those ones that are attached to bumpers or through the tie down holes in the boxes of pickup trucks, or draped across the grill of a vehicle? Can we tell by placement what message they are meant to convey? One message might be support for athletes, another might be a message of protest, a message about the need for freedom.

Freedom. It's a word that's been bandied about this last month or more. Freedom in what sense? To not be bound by rules of the state? To be able to go where one wants, without interference? To

protest?

Freedom has become a politicized word. And it's time to reclaim it, to separate it from the interests of one or a few groups.

Jesus has been ministering and teaching, and on this particular day, climbs a mountain to pray. He brings along three of his disciples, Peter, John and James. While he is praying, his face changes in appearance and his clothes become blinding white. The disciples have dozed off, but when they come to, they realize through the blinding light, that Jesus is speaking with two others, and they recognize them as Moses and Elijah. The three talked about Jesus' exodus, the one he is about to complete in Jerusalem.

Peter suggests they should build something on this place where the three are meeting. As he is speaking the three disciples are enveloped in a bright, radiant cloud. They become deeply aware of God. Then a voice from the cloud says, "This is my Son, the Chosen! Listen to him." As the voice dies away, they see that Jesus was alone. The disciples do not speak of this experience to anyone at that time.

Peter is keen to memorialize the experience—the brightness of Jesus, the similarity of it to the shining of Moses' face when he came down the mountain from speaking with God, the very presence of Elijah and perhaps especially, Moses. As commentator Janet Hunt ponders, perhaps Peter recognizes in these similarities, another: the journey from slavery to freedom, which has been repeated many times in Biblical witness.

Then the next day, Jesus and the three disciples come down the mountain and into the crowd of people there to meet them. A man in the crowd calls out to Jesus, asking him to deliver his son, who has been plagued by a spirit that seizes him and throws him into racking convulsions. Although the man has asked the remaining disciples to relieve his son of this spirit, they have been unable to do so. Jesus grumbles some about the generation before him, but tells him to bring his son. The spirit seizes the boy at this moment, but Jesus steps in, orders the foul spirit to be gone, heals the boy and returns him to his father. Those gathered shake their heads in wonder, astonished at the greatness of God.

As if to confirm Peter's sense of what he has seen on the mountain, Jesus frees this boy from the bondage of an evil demon, restoring him, and his family, that has no doubt been terribly affected by this demon, to new life.

What for us is it that binds us? What keeps us in its clutches and won't let us free? Is it the feeling of unjust treatment? Is it poor health? Is it limited means? Is it fear or judgment, anger or depression? Is it an addiction? Is it the journey of accompanying a loved one bound in such ways?

This is Black History month, and I'm conscious that I have not yet spoken about the ways in which systemic racism binds so many African-Canadian people. I have been focused on the systemic/institutional racism that shackles so many Indigenous people in Canada. I know their situations are not the same, but I wonder if we could consider both in one area, incarceration.

Race	Percentage of Total Offender Population	Percentage of Canadian Population (2016 census)	More/Less Likely to be Incarcerated
Indigenous	25.2	4.9	5.14 x more likely
Asian	5.3	16.5	3.11 x less likely
Black	7.2	3.5	2.06 x more likely
Caucasian	54.2	72.9	1.35 x less likely
Hispanic	1.1	1.3	1.18 x less likely

Incarceration stems from so many factors that bind populations, among them: poverty; limited education; few, if any, opportunities; meagre hope for a life beyond what they have known; and in the case of Indigenous populations, colonization and the resulting multi-generational trauma.

Earnell Brown is a speaker who works with The Sir Donald Foundation, which “exists to create, support, and provide opportunities for the advancement, empowerment and intrinsic growth of criminal justice involved individuals, their families and the communities in which they live.” Brown says that once a person is incarcerated, they experience frequent physical isolation; exposure to the chance to learn criminal behaviour even “better” than before; and stunted growth, especially emotion and mental.

And once “freedom” from incarceration is finally gained? Housing is too often not readily available; employers willing to hire are far too few; and when those released step out into the world again, in addition to possibly not having a place to sleep, they likely will not know where their next meal is coming from, nor a decent change of clothes, nor basic toiletries which are essential for dignity and well-being.

And just because we may not have experienced prison does not mean that we are free. We are not free when we live in fear or judgment. We are not free when we have a limited understanding of the factors that motivate our neighbours who live through, or with, such elements in their lives. And make no mistake: they are indeed our neighbours, whether they’re from another part of town or another part of the country.

We are told, by theologians such as Richard Rohr, that we experience the freedom of life with God when we are working to make others truly free. Just as the boy’s father called for Jesus to heal the young boy bound by an evil spirit when he came down the mountain, so we are encouraged to call to Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit to free those bound in the cycle of racism, poverty and the bleak reality of little opportunity for change.

Perhaps that call comes in the form of a letter to our MP or the Prime Minister to ensure that Indigenous children have the same access to quality education as other children in the country experience. Perhaps it is in becoming more familiar with the unique situations faced by Indigenous and/or African-Canadians and how their races have been seen as something which determines the directions of their lives. Perhaps it is by choosing a particular issue like police relations and joining a campaign to increase community policing in place of racial profiling. There are many actions that we can take, once we acknowledge the grim reality of racialized people.

All, or any, of these actions, frees us from the confines of our own race, and own experience. As we open our minds and hearts to the “other,” we are opening our minds and hearts to God. For as we draw nearer to others, we draw nearer to God as we help to bring about God’s kin-dom in this time and place.

May we be inspired, on our journey from slavery to freedom, by the glimpse of blinding glory and the affirmation of God for the One we call Jesus. May we know that that breaking of the chains of whatever oppression and servitude we experience, is made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. God loves us that much, to bind Godself to mortality and death to set us free. May we rejoice, and live into the blessings of freedom.

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

**Hymn: We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding**

**VU 104**

- 1 We have come at Christ's own bidding  
to this high and holy place,  
where we wait with hope and longing  
for some token of God's grace.  
Here we pray for new assurance  
that our faith is not in vain,  
searching like those first disciples  
for a sign both clear and plain.
- 2 Light breaks in upon our darkness;  
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;  
Moses and Elijah marvel  
as the heavenly voice is heard.  
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder  
how the Law and Prophets meet:  
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,  
stands transfigured and complete.
- 3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,  
fearful lest our faith decline,  
we like Peter find it tempting  
to remain and build a shrine.  
But true worship gives us courage  
to proclaim what we profess,  
that our daily lives may prove us  
people of the God we bless.

**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. 135. Copyright 2021, alt.*

God of love and light,  
as we stand on the threshold of Lent  
we reflect on the journey  
we have followed:  
the celebration of your arrival  
and the start of your earthly ministry,  
whilst dreading the journey  
you are soon to take to the cross  
because of those who refused  
to embrace your way of life.

May we, like Peter, James, and John,  
catch a glimpse of you, Jesus,  
who the world needs to know so much in this hour.

O God,  
we pray for our fragile and bruised planet.  
We lament that people in power  
continue to take from the Earth  
without a care for the cost to your creation.  
God, it is as if the planet is crying out  
for relief in the floods of tears,  
the earthquakes trying to shake us to attention;  
the winds sighing, when words fail...

## **Silence**

When it comes to caring for your creation,  
help us to see anew.  
Remind us to take only what we need,  
to ignore what we can do without,  
and to find ways to minimise our use  
of the precious resources of this world.  
Steer us away from a world  
driven by consumerism and greed  
towards a world which can know restoration  
and the benefits of sabbath rest,  
cool down and be cleansed of its pollution.

Beloved Jesus,  
you came back down the mountain

to share the good news,  
to heal,  
to teach,  
to provoke,  
to feed,  
to touch,  
to care.

Inspire us, we pray, to be  
your voice,  
your words,  
your boldness,  
your life-giving  
and life-saving hands.

Take us out of the clouds  
of pomp and ceremony  
and back down to earth.  
Guide us to where you need us to be  
so we may guide others to you.  
Hear us 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



Your Gifts Help Overcome Discrimination: **Petrona's Story**

Photo: The United Church of Canada



Everyone has a right to express their beliefs, find good work, have a safe place to live, speak freely, love who they want to, and meet their basic needs. Discrimination strikes at the heart of these core human rights.

Although Indigenous people living in Guatemala make up nearly half the population, they face discrimination in all facets of their lives. Because of this discrimination, accessing health care and education and becoming financially stable is extremely hard. Especially for women. According to the Guatemala Conference of Evangelical Churches, 43 percent of Indigenous women living in Guatemala are unable to read and write compared to 19 percent of non-Indigenous women.

That's why your gifts through [Mission & Service](#) support the Conference in providing human rights education as well as business and agricultural training skills for women farmers.

Petrona is one of hundreds of women who have changed their lives after receiving training through the Conference.

She is a member of a gardening group of six women. Thanks to your generosity, these women receive seeds, tools, and agricultural training. Today, instead of making the long walk to the market to buy costly produce, Petrona grows tomatoes and chili peppers a stone's throw from her home.

"When we need anything, we just get it from our greenhouse," she says.

Catarina, another member of the group, says the greenhouse means children in the community are healthier.

"If we plant tomatoes, radishes, and chard, these are very good vitamins for our children. We don't see malnourished kids anymore," she says.

The gifts you give have a lasting impact on the lives of hard-working Indigenous women and their families, who face discrimination simply for being who they are. A better world is possible! Thank you for helping to make it happen.

**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, alt.*

We serve our God with freedom;  
we worship our God with joy.  
In freedom and in joy,  
let us present the offerings of our lives to God.

### **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](mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com)

Thanks to all of you who continue to contribute so much to make Melville the caring community of faith that it is. May you be blessed.

**Offering Prayer** *Robin Wardlaw, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.52. Used with permission.*

May these gifts, Generous God,  
lift the veil that separates people from your gospel,  
illuminating all of our lives with the knowledge of your everlasting love.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Hymn: Sent Out in Jesus' Name**                      **MV 212**

Sent out in Jesus' name,  
our hands are ready now  
to make the world the place  
in which the kingdom comes. (2x)

The angels cannot change  
a world of hurt and pain  
into a world of love,  
of justice and of peace.  
The task is ours to do,  
to set it really free.  
O, help us to obey,  
and carry out your will. (2x)

**Commissioning** *Anna Atkinson, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.52. Used with permission.*

Friends, next week sees the beginning of the season of Lent,  
a season that reminds us of the power, and the joy, of the Way of Jesus.  
It reminds us, too, of the courage we need for the journey.  
As we move forward from this Transfiguration Sunday into the season of Lent,  
let us remember God's mission for the church in the world,  
and remember also that we are that church.  
And as we reach out with Jesus,  
let us be bold in our hope and confident in the knowledge  
that our God, who is Creator, Christ, and Spirit, is with us in every moment!

**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, alt..*

May the glory of God shine upon you,  
the Word of God live within you,  
and the Spirit of God give you peace.

**Household Prayer: Morning** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**<sup>®</sup>  
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Jesus Christ, as morning dawns,  
be our light in this new day.  
Let our lives reflect your glory,  
our words show forth your goodness,  
and our actions shine with your grace;  
in your holy name we pray. Amen.

**Household Prayer: Evening** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**<sup>®</sup>  
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Jesus Christ, as evening comes,  
be our light and hope in darkness.  
Draw near to us in grace,  
surround us with your presence,  
and fill us with your peace;  
in your holy name we pray. Amen.