



***Celebrating  
176 Years***



**February 6, 2022**

**Melville United Church**

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Pastoral Care Numbers

Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Martha Duncan

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

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**Melville United Church**  
**February 6, 2022**  
**The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

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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 6, 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**

- **An 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. And 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 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.

- **Housing needed.** A family with 4 children needs a home to rent for April 1st - any location, any community. Their current landlord has sold his property and they have to move out. If you know of any places or hear of any homes for rent, please email Rev. Marion Loree at [m.loree@rogers.com](mailto:m.loree@rogers.com) or call 519-835-8605. Your help is most appreciated.

- **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:** *Bob Root, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.44. Used with permission.*

As one week finishes and another week begins,  
we have come to this house of worship  
that we might place ourselves, our lives, our loved ones,  
and all our cares and joys  
in the embrace of God, whose welcome is always assured.

**We come confident that God is always with us.**

**We come thankful that, in this world in which we live,  
we have this place to call our spiritual home  
and people to companion us on our journey.**

**We come to give thanks.**

Come, and let us worship God.

**Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**                      **VU 333**

1        Love divine, all loves excelling,  
          joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
          all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
          pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
          enter every trembling heart.

2        Come, almighty to deliver;  
          let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
          nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
          serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
          glory in thy perfect love.

3      Finish, then, thy new creation;  
          pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
          perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
          till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
          lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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

**You never hesitate, O God,  
to show us your goodness and mercy,  
your love and grace.  
You are open to all our prayers,  
always ready to receive and answer.  
Touch our hearts during this time of worship,  
fill us with the golden light of your presence,  
and as we receive your word, and pray, and sing,  
make us one in Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music:** “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” by Albert L Pearce, *played by Colleen Weber*

**Call to Reconciliation** *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for January 30, 2022 (Epiphany 4 – C). Used with permission.*

Arrogance, envy, harsh words, empty hands,  
pleasure in doing what we know is wrong –  
these are what we often use to fill our lives.  
Let us confess in faith, trusting in the hope  
that God’s love restores us and makes us whole.  
Please join me, praying,

**Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison)** *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for January 30, 2022 (Epiphany 4 – C). Used with permission, alt.*

**O God, we do not know how to speak words of hope,  
because we listen to the purveyors of fear.  
We do not know how to be loving  
because our role models are ridicule and anger.  
We do not know how to be faithful to you,  
because at an early age,  
we learned to trust the promises of all the false prophets  
who entice us with their simple thoughts.**

**But you know how to forgive, God of kindness,  
so we pray you would pour out your mercy upon us.  
May faith abide in us, so we may serve others even as you have served us;  
may hope abide in us, so we may surround the broken with your compassion and grace;  
may love abide in us, not only in these moments of brokenness,  
but in every moment of our life with Jesus Christ, our Savior, who abides in us.**

*Silence is kept*

**Words of Assurance** *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for January 30, 2022 (Epiphany 4 – C). Used with permission, alt.*

The good news is that, in our God, we find that safe place for our lives.

In God's forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need.

**In God's acceptance, we discover the love  
in which we may abide in every moment of our lives.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Jeremiah 1:4-10 (NRSV)**

*Before you were formed in the womb, I set you apart*

*Jeremiah's Call and Commission*

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'

Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.'

But the Lord said to me,

'Do not say, "I am only a boy";

for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you,

says the Lord.'

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth;

and the Lord said to me,

'Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,

to pluck up and to pull down,

to destroy and to overthrow,

to build and to plant.'

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



There are cookie cutters, and cookie cutter houses, one design for how something is supposed to be made, one look, one style.



This is how Jeremiah understands prophets: they are cut from one cloth—old, wise, learned men, who utter their pronouncements in deep, confident, resonant voices.

Jeremiah is but a boy when God’s word comes to him that he has been appointed as a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah protests that he does not know how to speak, and perhaps thinks, “I don’t have anything to say either.”

But God is not letting him off that easily. God assures him that Jeremiah will speak, wherever and to whomever God sends him.

Paul tells us in the scripture we’ve read the last two weeks, that God has provided each person with gifts, and they are all different. And it’s not that some gifts are preferable to others, or rank as more important than others. All are needed, and all work together.

It may seem to us that we are not qualified to do God’s calling, but just as God touched Jeremiah’s mouth to give him the words to speak, so God will touch us, giving us what we need to do what God is calling us to do. We and those gifts might be as unique and individual as every snowflake, but God makes use of them to bring about God’s kin-dom.



Cookies, houses and snowflakes, when you see any of them, may you be reminded of God’s calling to use our unique gifts in service of God’s reign, and God’s steadfast faithfulness in equipping us for that.

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

**Hymn: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky**

**VU 509**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky  
I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?  
    Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
    I have heard you calling in the night.  
    I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
    I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain,  
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
    Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
    I have heard you calling in the night.  
    I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
    I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
    Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
    I have heard you calling in the night.  
    I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
    I will hold your people in my heart.

**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.*

Spirit of life, God of love,  
open our hearts and enter in,  
that hearing your word of love,  
we may become your love for others. **Amen.**

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 (NRSV)**

*Love is patient and kind*

But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

*The Gift of Love*

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,  
but do not have love,

I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,  
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,  
but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,  
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end;

as for tongues, they will cease;

as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;

but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child;  
when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.

Now I know only in part; then I will know fully,

even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;

and the greatest of these is love.

**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, death, and resurrection,  
we are grateful for life and all its gifts.

Increase in us the stuff that life is made of—

faith, hope, and love,

but especially love— *1 Cor. 13:13*

that we may abide with you eternally through

Jesus Christ, Love Incarnate. **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: Oreo Cookie Love

Corinth was a port city in Greece, through which passed most of the goods that were traded in East. Because of the many rich merchants and sailors, all looking for a good time, it had a reputation as an unruly, hard-drinking, sexually promiscuous group of people. When Paul came with the Gospel message, many people became believers of Jesus, but they also brought their rough and ready ways with them. Paul remained there ministering to the people for a year and a half, showing them how to live a faithful Christian life, and then he went on to other towns and communities.

Sometime later he received correspondence from a family in Corinth saying that in his absence, things had fallen apart; people had reverted to their old ways; there were factions at odds with each other; worship had degenerated into a competition for the most “spirituality.” He also received a letter from the church community as a whole, asking for help. So Paul writes to the church in Corinth, the first of two letters, reminding them of his absolute conviction that God, revealed in Jesus and present in the Holy Spirit, is among them and is central to their lives, regardless of how much things have deteriorated in his absence. And in part he discusses the importance and understanding of gifts, in our readings from Chapter 12 last week, Chapter 13 today, and some further thoughts on specific gifts of tongues and interpretation in Chapter 14.

While we might not be able to quote Chapter 13 from memory, it is one of the more familiar of writings from Paul. We most often hear it at weddings, where the middle is read: Love is patient; love is kind; it is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude...It **has** become a sort of stand-alone passage.

But we do it a disservice when that is the only way we think of it. It is actually part of a larger theme that covers chapters 12, 13 and 14. The Corinthians, it seems, were focused on a single gift, speaking in tongues, and so ranked it ahead of all other gifts. Chapters 12 and 14 discuss a variety of spiritual gifts, the way they work together and in particular discussion about the gifts of prophecy and tongues. In this discussion of gifts, however, Chapter 13 is the key to Paul’s arguments in this section. Theologian Melanie Howard suggests we might think of these three chapters as an Oreo cookie. Chapters 12 and 14 as the chocolate cookie parts while Chapter 13, speaking about love, is the delicious cream centre. Just as an Oreo that was only the 2 chocolate cookie wafers would be insufficiently satisfying alone, so would Paul’s discussion of spiritual gifts be incomplete without a clear grounding in love.

Now the kind of love meant here is not the *eros* kind of love of cupids with arrows and Valentines and Hallmark, a sentimental love. It is in fact an *agape* kind of love, love that should be the foundational ethic for the church community in Corinth. Love that considers the other and strives to care for them deeply.

But Paul says we need to consider the gifts we do have, and how they are most effective when we use them together. It’s not that this message doesn’t apply to marriages, but rather that it applies to a whole lot more, because love is not just about marriages, and relationships between couples, it is the very heart, the very identity, the very action of God.

And action is an important point. We tend to think of love as a state of being, a thing, as something that people are “in.” But Paul wants us to understand love as a verb, and action, as alive and vital; not as a passive feeling toward one another. And it must infuse what we do, for our actions to be true discipleship to Jesus and through Jesus to God.

Think of a project to help a community following a natural disaster, like we discussed last week in our Minute for Mission about the response to the earthquake and tropical storm that crippled Haiti last summer. If we go to Haiti to deliver food stuffs, and all the while do not get out of ourselves, remove ourselves from the centre of our concern, so that there is room to be with and for others, then we might as well have stayed home. As theologian Cynthia Jarvis says, “How many good deeds are ruined by the inner self-congratulation that places the doer in the moral spotlight? Likely the one who is the object of a loveless loving act sees right through to the pretense!”

So what is this love? There is an organization called the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love, which has concluded, “When the happiness, security and well-being of another feels as real to us as our own, or perhaps more so, we love that person. Unlimited love extends to ... all humanity based on our shared dignity and interdependence with one another and with nature.”

But of course, Paul is clear that you cannot say what love is without saying Jesus. He knows only Christ can make unconditional lovers out of otherwise selfish human beings. And he knows this because Christ has done this for him. Paul does not offer a definition for love, but he does point the Corinthians, and us, to the one who alone is love. If we were to replace every mention of love in this chapter with Christ, we would begin to see through a mirror darkly the love for which we were made. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his book *Ethics* writes, “What is here called love is not this general principle but the utterly unique event of the laying down of the life of Jesus Christ for us...The New Testament answer the question ‘What is Love?’ quite unambiguously by pointing solely and entirely to Jesus Christ.”

And not to the life or teachings or actions of Jesus, but to his death on the cross. Theologian Robert Jenson says, “seen from faith’s viewpoint, death and resurrection is what love concretely means...to love is to accept death: it is to give up my cautious claims to hang onto myself.” Paul describes a few positive traits of love as patient and kind, but then says what love is not: it is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way, is not irritable or resentful and does not rejoice in wrongdoing rather than the truth. Sometimes we are so full of ourselves that we come to believe that love of the other must be at the expense of ourselves. And, in fact, it must!

So if we know, from the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love what makes a person love unconditionally, as Cynthia Jarvis says, “we can reproduce the conditions that will make unconditional lovers out of otherwise selfish human beings. Paul would say death is the only condition. Our jealous, boastful, arrogant and rude selves must die, as Saul died on the road to Damascus. Our selves full of ourselves must be emptied, even as Christ emptied himself and took the form of a servant.”

This is not a condition that we can reproduce. Rather if we love at all, we love because—when we were jealous and boastful, arrogant and rude, irritable and resentful and insisting upon our own way—the patient and kind God first love us, is **still** loving our [very fallible,] sorry selves.

And so, to make room for the other in our hearts, we must work at setting aside these less honourable traits of ours. This is the way to love. When we trade self-interest for compassion, when we look to the other person’s well-being and success, rather than our own, when we see ourselves as part of the flow of God’s love, we move closer to that incredible, unconditional sweet, cookie-centre love that animates all our gifts.

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

**Hymn: Though I May Speak VU 372**

- 1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
  
- 2 Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.
  
- 3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.

**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. 99. Copyright 2021, alt.*

Gracious God,  
our creator and our source,  
we present ourselves  
today and every day in thanks  
for your Word,  
your guidance,  
and your love.

As we seek to be  
ever more like you  
and more fully our ourselves,  
we come before you in prayer:

For our troubled world,  
torn apart by greed,  
by a failure of stewardship,  
by inequality,  
and by disease,  
help us and all those who can  
to find new ways and new  
strengths to help and to heal,  
to bring justice and  
your saving message to all whom  
we meet.

For our communities,  
as we search for ways  
to break the all too familiar  
isolation, shine your light of  
of love into the darkness of  
ignorance and distance,  
help us to live and to embrace  
your life-giving commandment  
to love our neighbours.

For your churches,  
in this time of worry,  
as we seek to find our place  
in this world of competing priorities,  
reignite the flame of faith in the  
hearts of your beloved children,  
help us to find new ways to  
spread your mission and message  
to a world so in need of your love.

For all those in pain,  
all those bereaved,  
all those doubting,  
all those struggling,  
all those on the margins,  
all those searching,  
all those we each hold in our hearts.

And for our searching selves,  
as we try to live as you tell us,  
we ask for your unending support  
to help us to be more like you,  
and embrace who you have made us to be,  
just as we are.  
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



[https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/styles/primary\\_media/public/2021-12/ygm-2022\\_jan30\\_dreams.jpg?itok=ZAeEvWeU](https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/styles/primary_media/public/2021-12/ygm-2022_jan30_dreams.jpg?itok=ZAeEvWeU)

### **Dreams Are Realized Through Education**

Tamilarasi is a very bright 15-year-old from a small village in Tamil Nadu, South India. She is lucky to be able to go to school. In her village, girls her age are often pulled out of school to be married.

Life isn't easy. Tamilarasi's father recently died in an accident, and she is living with her mother and two other siblings. As a widow with no inheritance rights, Tamilarasi's mother may lose their family home when her brother marries. The teenager worries about where she and her family will live in the future.

"Our life has become a question mark now," she writes in a thank-you letter to the Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF), our Mission & Service partner. "Questions haunt me and sometimes I'm unable to sleep," she says.

When a representative from HRF visited Tamilarasi's school, she gave a presentation on children's rights to the students at a school assembly. At the assembly, Tamilarasi and other students were encouraged to stay in school and they received a backpack. "The schoolbag was of good quality and spacious enough to carry all my books and notebooks," she wrote. "I felt very happy."

Offering school supplies to students makes it possible for our Mission & Service partners to help young people like Tamilarasi complete their education and stay in school.

What's more, with support from Gifts with Vision, the United Church's gift catalogue, HRF provided backpacks stocked with school supplies to almost 500 Tamil Nadu children who live in poverty. Without those supplies, the children would not be able to attend or participate in classes.

Your generosity helps students around the world pursue their dreams.

One day, Tamilarasi wants to become a doctor. "I want to protect children like myself from diseases," she explained. "I know I can't afford to while away my time!"

Thank you for making a difference by providing life-transforming advocacy and school supplies. Your support truly does help change lives.

**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.*

Friends, let us love not only in our words but also  
in our deeds *1 John 3:18*  
through the tithes and offerings that we give today.

### **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.

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God, bless these gifts that we have given  
as expressions of our love  
for you and our neighbors,  
that they may bring closer to fulfillment  
your reign of peace and love;  
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign. **Amen.**

### **Hymn: My Faith Looks Up to Thee**                      **VU 663**

- 1 My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine.  
    Now hear me while I pray;  
    take all my guilt away.  
    O let me from this day be wholly thine.
- 2 While life's dark maze I tread,  
and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide,  
    bid darkness turn to day;  
    wipe sorrow's tears away;  
    nor let me ever stray from thee aside.
- 3 May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire.  
    As thou hast died for me,  
    O may my love to thee  
    pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

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

God is a refuge, but never an escape, therefore:

Go this day into a world

where things are being pulled down and overthrown,  
where things are being built and planted.

*Jer. 1:10*

Go this day open to the surprise of what God is doing  
and where and with whom God is at work!

*Luke 4:25–27*

Go this day with the love of God made visible in you.

*1 Cor. 13:1–7*

### **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.

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May the love of God

*1 Cor. 13:7, 13*

help you to bear all things.

May the love of Christ

enable you to believe all things.

May the love of the Holy Spirit

inspire you to hope all things,

so that you abide in faith, hope, and love

this day and forever.

**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.*

God, you have given me the gift of another day;

may I live it in gratitude.

Help me to be loving to others,

to Earth, and to myself;

in Jesus' name. 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.*

Holy One, this day is drawing to an end.

Be with me as I pause and ponder

all the love I saw and received today.

Help me to see you in each moment of love.

Where I fell short of being patient and kind,

help me to feel your patience and kindness toward me,

and give me peace, as I give this day back to you. Amen.