



March 27, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, companion on the way.

We gather in community today – March 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 in this season of Lent, we look inward, considering ourselves and our relationship with God: Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Announcements

• **Ukraine Appeal**

The invasion of Ukraine is costing precious lives and creating a humanitarian crisis as people flee to safety. Over a million people, displaced from their homes, are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Many have lost friends, loved ones, and property; struggle to meet their basic needs; and face an uncertain future. United Church Mission & Service partners are responding to the rapidly unfolding crisis—visit our website at <https://united-church.ca>, scroll down to Ukraine Crisis and click on the Act Now button to find out how you can show your support and make a gift.

• **Annual Congregational Meeting**

On April 3 we will be having our annual congregational meeting. There will be a short service at 11 and the meeting will take place immediately afterward in the Sanctuary. While we apologize for the inconvenience, we will not be live streaming the meeting, nor offering the possibility of virtually attending. What there is, is lots of room in the Sanctuary to spread out, enjoy a snack if you wish to bring one (this is a BYOS or bring your own snack event) and hear what your council has been up to for the past two years and what the future may hold. You are invited to join us.

• **Easter Take Out Dinner from St. James Anglican Church**

Let us do the cooking for Easter! Saturday, April 16th, with pick up at 5:00pm or 5:30pm. Phone in orders by April 8th to (519)843-5748 or (519) 843-2554. The Menu: Turkey with stuffing and cranberries, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots, coleslaw and a bun, and a choice for dessert of apple crisp or pumpkin pie.

• **Round Table on Food Security and Faith**

Held by Zoom on Thursday, April 21st at 7pm, hosted by the United Church's Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls, Western Ontario Waterways and Shining Waters Regional Councils. Discover various and diverse food justice ministries in our regions, offer your challenges and celebrations in these ministries, hear from Open Food Network.

- **From the Mission and Discipleship Commission:**
 - Young Adults Together retreat for 19+ years in Fingal ON near St. Thomas from Friday April 29th to Sunday May 1st. Information and registration is on the WOWCRUCC.ca website under Events.
 - Camp Bimini is having a drive through fundraising dinner on March 27th at St. Mary's United Church, St. Mary's ON
 - Camp Menesetung invites you to their "Clean Up Camp" day (pizza lunch provided) in the Goderich area, June 19th 9am-4pm. Check the camp's website
 - Please pray for several other projects funded by our Mission & Service dollars throughout the Region
- **Blood Donor Clinic**
Thursday March 31st 2:30pm to 7:30pm at the Fergus Legion 500 Blair St. Fergus. Book now at blood.ca or on the GiveBlood app or call 1-888-236-6283.
- **Community Theatre Camp**
 CALL FOR ACTORS!!! Boys and girls, ages 6 to 16, who love theatre are wanted on stage at Guelph United Performers Community Theatre Camp! We start on Monday and perform our Show for family and friends on Friday. For more information visit guelphunitedperformers.com or contact Barbara Moldenhauer, bmoldenhauer2014@gmail.com.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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: Lent/Easter 2022, p.30. Used with permission.*

This land on which we gather is the Traditional land of the

Petun,
Haudenosaunee,
Anishinabewaki,
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation,
Odawa and
Mississauga people

We worship Creator on this land and acknowledge with respect the thousands of years of ceremony and relationship that are etched in footprint, fire, and faithfulness on the soil and rock that surrounds us.

Lighting the Lenten Candle: *Juanita Austin, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.30. Used with permission.*

(If you are watching this on-line or reading it from a page I invite you to take a moment to light a candle, centre yourself and prepare to enter in to a time of worship and prayer. As you light your candle repeat the following words)

Holy One, as we light our Lenten candle today,
may we be mindful of how your love persistently shines even in our times of wandering,
our times of searching for the truth,
our times of doubt and pain.
Be the light of our lives, we pray;
bring us back to you again.
(Light the Lenten candle.)

Call to Worship: *Beth W. Johnston, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.31. Used with permission.*

The news is bleak.

The power of faith is strong.

The world is bleak and scary.

The love of Christ can drive out all fear.

Let us latch on to the wisdom and power of Christ's peace.

May it transform our living in this time of worship.

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty **VU 220**

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
 O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
 Come, all who hear:
 brothers and sisters draw near,
 joining in glad adoration.

- 2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
 keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
 Have you not seen
 how all you needed has been
 met by God's gracious ordaining?

- 3 Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who out of love will befriend us.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *The United Church Publishing House, Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada. Copyright 2000. Used with permission.*

**Fit us, O God, for this new day.
Through your Spirit, grant us courage,
so that today's uncertainties may not overwhelm us.
Through your Christ, fill us with love,
so that differences may not divide us.
Through your creative energy, make us new,
so that the past may not enslave us.
Spirit, Christ, Creator, lead us into newness of life.**

Ministry of Music "Kyrie Eleison" words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend, arranged by David Angerman *sung by Melville United Choir accompanied by Colleen Weber*

Call to Reconciliation *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2. Copyright 2014, alt.*

Let us confess our sins, our shortcomings, our brokenness
to our God,
who is generous to all who call upon God's name.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2. Copyright 2014, alt.*

**God of grace and glory, we pray for your mercy
We are intimidated by our circumstances,
distracted from your purposes,
drowning in doubts and fears.
We are presumptuous about your will,
belittling others and magnifying ourselves.
We envy the blessings of others,
secretly despising their dreams.
We have hardened our hearts
to the suffering of our brothers and sisters,
feeding ourselves in face of the injustice
that holds them captive.
Merciful God, who searches our hearts,**

**lift us from sin and help us to walk with you
in faith, humility, and brotherly-sisterly love.
Amen.**

Silence is kept

Words of Assurance *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2.** Copyright 2014, alt.*

Our God sees all, knows all, forgives all, restores all
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

No one who believes in him will be put to shame,
for everyone who calls on the name
of God shall be saved.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Children's Ministry "Chicken Clicking" *by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross.*

Hymn: Jesus, Friend of Little Children **VU 340**

- 1 Jesus, friend of little children,
let me be one too;
take my hand, and ever keep me
close to you.

- 2 Teach me how to grow in goodness,
daily as I grow.
You have been a child, and surely
you must know.

- 3 Never leave me, nor forsake me;
ever be my friend;
for I need you, from life's dawning
to its end.



Scripture: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)

Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers

Then Jacob took up residence in the place where Isaac had settled, the land of Canaan. These are the generations of Joseph.

When Joseph was seventeen years old, he used to accompany his siblings, the children of Bilhah and Zilpah, Jacob's spouses, as they herded the flocks. Joseph would tattle on the others to Jacob while they tended the animals, always presenting them in a negative light.

Now Jacob doted on the youth, because he was a child of his old age; he loved Joseph more than the others.

And Jacob gave Joseph a richly ornamented robe.

When the brothers saw that Jacob loved him best, they were jealous and had nothing but words of contempt for the boy.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated Joseph all the more.

Joseph had said to them, "Listen to my dream.

We were all out in the field binding sheaves, when all at once my sheaf straightened itself and remained standing upright, and your sheaves circles around my sheaf, bowing down as if paying homage to my sheaf."

The brothers rejoined, "So you want to play the sovereign with us?

Do you really intend to rule over us?"

— and they hated Joseph that much more because of the dream and how he interpreted it.

Then Joseph had another dream, which he told to his father and the brothers:

"Listen to me, I had a second dream.

In this dream the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me."

When he told them the dream, Jacob scolded him.

He said, "What is all this dream business?

Are you saying that I, your mother, and the rest of the family will bow down and pay homage to you?"

The siblings were jealous, but Jacob did not forget the incident.

The brothers had gone to tend the herds at Shechem.

Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are tending to the herds at Shechem. I will send you to them."

Joseph replied, "I am ready."

Jacob told Joseph to see if things were going well and to report back to him.

So Joseph set off from the valley of Hebron.

When he arrived at Shechem and was wandering in the fields in search for the herds,

someone asked, "What are you looking for?"

Joseph answered, "I am looking for my brothers.

Can you tell me where they are tending sheep?"

The person said, "They have moved on. I heard them say they were going to Dothan."

So Joseph left that place and caught up with the herd at Dothan.

They saw Joseph approaching in the distance,

and before he reached them, they plotted to murder the lad.

They said to one another "Here comes that dreamer. Now's our chance!

Let's kill Joseph and throw his body in one of these pits.

We'll say a wild animal devoured him.

Then we'll see what becomes of Joseph's dreams!"

Reuben intervened and saved the boy from their hands, saying, "No bloodshed!

Throwing him into a pit in the wilderness is one thing,

but let's not lay a hand on him."

Reuben's intention was to rescue Joseph and return him to Jacob.

So when Joseph came upon his brothers,

they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe he wore,

and picked him up and threw him into a pit.

The pit was empty, and there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat.

As they were eating, they noticed an Ishmaelite caravan coming from Gilead, with loads of gum, balm and resin, on its way down to Egypt.

Judah said to the others,

"What is to be gained by murdering Joseph and concealing his death?

Why not sell Joseph to these Ishmaelites?

He is, after all, our flesh and blood,

and in that way his blood will not be on our hands."

The others agreed.

Meanwhile some Midianite traders passed by, and pulled Joseph out of the pit.

They sold him for eight ounces of silver to the Ishmaelites,

who took Joseph with them into Egypt.



Reflection: Social Justice + Outreach Committee on Human Trafficking – Presented by Jane O’Leary *Joining the Fight Against Human Trafficking in Guelph & Wellington County*

Social Justice & Outreach Team

- Monitors social concerns - especially in our community
- Raises awareness within our congregation, and
- Identifies concrete actions we can take to make a difference.

Team Members: Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint, Martha Duncan, Shawna Dunsmore, Heather Halls, Ruth Sproule, Jane O’Leary

Today’s Concern – Human Trafficking

Feb 22nd National Human Trafficking Awareness Day Canada.

The team recognized the need to raise awareness within our congregation, and the community. The more we know, the more we can do to prevent it.

- Raise awareness of the problem – get people talking
- Raise awareness to recognize signs – get people watching
- Raise awareness of available resources and supports

What is Human Trafficking?

Exploitation and Control. Modern-day slavery.

Involves the recruitment, transportation, or harbouring of persons, or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person, for the purpose of exploiting them or facilitating their exploitation. Not the same as human smuggling.

Sex Trafficking victims are forced to:

- provide sexual services, work in massage parlours or escort agencies or the adult entertainment industry

Forced Labour victims are forced to:

- provide services under circumstances such as long hours for little or no pay, or unsafe work
- locations
- provide domestic servitude such as a caregiver with unreasonable hours and unrelated duties
- may include agricultural or construction workers

Where is Human Trafficking?

A worldwide crime. Often invisible to those not directly impacted by it so most Canadians are completely unaware that it occurs here.

Ontario is a major center for human trafficking in Canada, accounting for roughly 65% of police reported cases nationally.

It is estimated that 60% of people who are trafficked in Canada are travelling along the 400 series of Highways.

Most At-Risk to be Victims

- Women and girls are at greatest risk, individuals from certain populations, such as Indigenous women and girls, new immigrants, children in the child welfare system, persons living with disabilities, LGBTQ2 persons, and those struggling socially and/or financially.
- Migrant workers may be at higher-risk of exploitation and abuse due to language barriers, working in isolated/remote areas, lacking access to services and support, and/or correct information about their legal rights.

More About Victims

- Average entry age into sex trade in Canada is 12-14 years.
- 93% of Canada's sex trafficking victims are Canadian born.
- Victims identified in Wellington County are growing.
2019-2020 -22 human trafficking victims
2021 Oct -33 human trafficking victims

Who are the Traffickers?

Traffickers are master manipulators. May be known to the victim or a stranger.

- Current or past partners, family members, friends
- Co-worker or boss
- Organized crime groups, drug dealer
- Illicit massage/parlour owner

In Canada, the majority of persons accused of human trafficking are males between the ages of 18 and 34.

Five (5) Stages of Human Trafficking

Social Media is the most modern way to begin luring a victim.

Step 1: Luring "False Trust/Promises"

Step 2: Grooming and Gaming "The Honeymoon"

Step 3: Coercion and Manipulation "Mind Games"

Step 4: Exploitation "Isolation + Control"

Step 5: Recruitment "Fully Manipulated"

Watch for Signs

Signs that could indicate your child is being groomed or is already involved in human trafficking:

1. they look or seem depressed
2. they retreat from the family/hide out in their room
3. not home as often, unexplained whereabouts
4. suddenly has new things like a phone, computer, clothes
5. shows signs of drug dependency
6. wears age-inappropriate clothing; or
7. gets a tattoo (traffickers often “brand” their girls)

Major Initiative in Wellington County

Wellington County OPP, Victim Services Wellington, and Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington have partnered on a two-year awareness initiative entitled ***Human Trafficking in Wellington County*** (HTINWC).

1. Support survivors and victims of trafficking and sexual assault.
1. Train police officers in a trauma-informed approach, so victims are not re-traumatized by the legal/judicial system.
2. Raising public awareness. Emphasizing that Wellington County is not immune just because it is has rural communities.

We Can Make a Difference

Ways you can help to end Human Trafficking.

1. Research Human Trafficking: understand luring methods, warning signs, and who is most at-risk
2. Raise Awareness; share with family, friends, peers, co-workers
3. Know what the Government is doing
4. Be a Mentor
5. Report It

If you suspect this is happening in your community or to someone you know, the best way to help them is by reporting it to your local police service; OPP, Crimestoppers

The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline 1-833-900-1010

<https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca>

It's a lot of difficult information, thank you for listening.

Going forward, we hope you will be moved to learn more, continue raising awareness and take steps to protect the vulnerable.

Melville is known for making a difference in our community. Let's keep it going!

On behalf of the Social Justice & Outreach Team

Thank You!

See the Social Justice section of the church website for loads of information and links to websites. <https://melvilleunited.com/social-justice>

Reach out to a team member if you have any questions.

Hymn: Blest Be the Tie That Binds

VU 602

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.

Joys and Concerns

Birthdays:

- Norma Harrop celebrates on Wed. Mar. 30th
- Norm Porritt celebrates on Sat. Apr. 2nd
- Lorri Wright celebrates on Sun. Apr. 3rd

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 Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®**
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Call: God hear our prayer,

Response: **and in your love answer.**

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
God hear our prayer, and in your love answer.

God of favor and purpose,
You have clothed us with a robe of righteousness.
You have directed us to our destiny.
You are with us in our deepest pain,
fear, and bewilderment.
You hear our cry when others turn

a deaf ear and a cold heart.

You lift us from the depths of discouragement
and rescue us from bleak Death.

We come to you now with confidence
on behalf of the church, the world,
and all in need:

God hear our prayer, **and in your love answer.**

For the family of God, our sisters and brothers
who belong to you throughout the world.

God hear our prayer, **and in your love answer.**

For your church to fulfill its mission in the world,
showing mercy, proclaiming your good news.

God hear our prayer, **and in your love answer.**

For peace and order to permeate your creation,
responding to your commands.

God hear our prayer, **and in your love answer.**

For reconciliation among families, factions, and nations
living in envy and conflict.

God hear our prayer, **and in your love answer.**

For those betrayed, beaten, thrown down, or abandoned,
those in bondage, fear, or distress.

God hear our prayer, **and in your love answer.**

For the special needs of those whose names
we remember now.

[Names may be called forth from the assembly.]

God hear our prayer, **and in your love answer.**

For those who have gone before us
to join the communion of saints.

God hear our prayer, **and in your love answer.**

Clothe us with your favor and love;
inspire us with dreams from you.
Hold us up when we falter in the storm,
and bring us safely to your promised place
of rest and release.

We pray it all in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Hymn: Though Ancient Walls**VU 691**

- 1 Though ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!
 Walls that divide are broken down;
 Christ is our unity!
 Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
 Christ is our liberty!

- 2 When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack.

- 3 The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
for self and world made new.
 Walls that divide are broken down;
 Christ is our unity!
 Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
 Christ is our liberty!

- 4 The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim;
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name!

- 5 This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery!
 Walls that divide are broken down;
 Christ is our unity!
 Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
 Christ is our liberty!

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

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honour all people;
love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 A, Volume 2.** Copyright 2014.*

May the generous blessing and favor
of our loving, abundant God
lift you, sustain you, and send
you to the world
with the gift of life!

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.*

Loving God, in all I do this day,
use me as a sign of your reconciling love.
Let me not view anyone from a human point of view,
but let me see all whom I will encounter with the eyes of Christ,
through whom I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®] **Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2.** Copyright 2014.*

Son of God, this day has been crowded with work and service.
This evening, bring me alone with you to the mountain to pray.
Help me to know your reassuring presence with me
through the night hours.
May I come to you and rest in you. Amen.