



Celebrating 176 Years



March 6, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
March 6, 2022
First 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 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. 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

- **Lenten Study**

Lesser Evils is a daily devotion/meditation book for Lent this year, and is available through 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 8th to April 12th. Registration costs \$44.99 with \$5 off if you pay online, and you will also receive a 20% off coupon for the book.

- **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 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.
- **Spring is around the corner!**

Are you dreaming of spring? Us too! The Garden Team is getting ready to decide which veggies to include and what our growing plan will look like for the upcoming season. Join us on Monday, March 21 at 7:00pm to help get the plan in motion. See you then! Any questions please contact LindaMae Ogilvie at ogilvielms@mail.com

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: *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1. Copyright 2012, drawing on Jeffery L. Tribble, "Pastoral Perspective" on Luke 4:1–13, First Sunday in Lent, in ibid., 48.*

The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

The journey begins in the wilderness.

We follow the way of Jesus,
who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

Like Jesus, we are not alone.

The Holy Spirit is with us. God's Word is on our lips.

Our call is to trust in God alone,
to do God's will in all things.

**For God leads us not only into the wilderness,
but also through the wilderness.**

Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

VU 375

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow, the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Nora Vedress, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.31. Used with permission.*

Gentle Spirit, we have come through the growing excitement and light of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

**Now we turn ourselves inward,
now we shine the light of insight we've found
into our hearts to discover what is there.**

**Bless this time of reflection
and guide our steps as we journey the Lenten road
that leads through death to life. Amen.**

Ministry of Music "On Eagle's Wings" by Michael Joncas, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner *sung by Melville United and Norval United Church Choirs*

Call to Reconciliation *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: 1st Sunday in Lent – C), Sunday, February 10, 2013. Used with permission.*

Too many times, what is found on our lips are words of hurt and anger.
Too often, what is found in our hearts is bitterness and fear.
And so we end up testing God with our foolish lives,
rather than trusting God to lead us in the way we long to go.
Let us bring our words of confession, as well as our brokenness,
to the One who hears us and makes us whole.
Please join me as we pray together, saying,

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: 1st Sunday in Lent – C), Sunday, February 10, 2013. Used with permission.*

**God of our ancestors,
we confess that we can become so obsessed with all that is new,
we ignore the past which is filled with wisdom.
We prefer to wander down streets to all the places we know so well,
yet are reluctant to be led by your Spirit into unfamiliar neighbourhoods.
We sometimes are in such a hurry to get our heart's desires,
we stumble past the grace you are longing to give us.**

**Hear our hearts and see our brokenness, God of our days,
and forgive us.**

**May we grow in our trust of you,
rather than continuing to test you.**

**Gather us up and bring us into the presence of Jesus Christ, our Servant, our Savior,
that we might follow him to Jerusalem, and beyond –
into that place of hope and peace you are giving to us.**

Silence is kept

Words of Assurance Reverend Thom M. Shuman, *Lectionary Liturgies: 1st Sunday in Lent – C*, Sunday, February 10, 2013. Used with permission.

This is our good news:

hearing our prayers and our silence, God forgives us!

God is giving to us a marvelous inheritance - hope and grace, peace and joy.

On our lips are cries of gratitude,

in our hearts is the trust in the One who loves us.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

“...In the Midst”

Jesus in the wilderness. What do you suppose he did for the 40 days?

Watch for what he was doing and what he was thinking?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgnBX3N3NtQ>

Lenten Reflection 40 – pictures by S. I. Smith, concept by bethanycovenant



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

Hymn: When We Are Tested

MV65 – to the tune SLANE at VU642 Be Thou My Vision

1. When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.
2. When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief;
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.
3. When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.
4. When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Saviour, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

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.*

Bring your word near to us, O God.

May it rest not only on our lips, *Rom. 10:8b*
but also reside in our hearts.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,
help us to respond to your word
with our whole lives

until you become our dwelling place; *Ps. 91:9*
through Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 *(NRSV The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*

My father was a wandering Aramean

First Fruits and Tithes

When you have come into the land that YHWH, your God, is giving you
as your inheritance, and you have taken possession of it, and settled in it,
take some of the first fruits of all that you produce.

Take them to the place which YHWH, your God, will choose
as a dwelling place for God's Name and say to the priest in office at that time,
"This day I declare to YHWH, our God,
that I have come to the land YHWH swore to our ancestors to give us."

The priest will then receive the basket from you
and will set it in front of the altar of YHWH.

Then you will declare before YHWH,
“My ancestor was a wandering Aramean
who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien.
There they became a nation great, strong and numerous.
When the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed us,
imposing hard labour upon us, we cried to YHWH, the God of our ancestors,
who heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil and our oppression.
YHWH brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm,
with terrifying power, with signs and wonders;
YHWH gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.
Therefore, I have brought now the first fruits of the products
of the soil that you, O God, have given me.”
Then you must set them before YHWH, and bow down before YHWH.
Then you all, along with the Levites, and the foreigners that live among you,
will feast on all the good things that YHWH, your God, has given to you and your household.

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)

Jesus tested in the desert

Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit,
and she led him into the desert for forty days,
where he was tempted by the Devil.
Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished.

The Devil said to Jesus, “If you are God’s Own, command this stone to turn into bread.”
Jesus answered, “Scripture has it, ‘We don’t live on bread alone.’”

Then the Devil took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant.
The Devil said, “I’ll give you all the power and glory of these nations;
the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish.
Prostrate yourself in homage before me, and it will all be yours.”

In reply, Jesus said, “Scripture has it:
‘You will worship the Most High God;
God alone will you adore.’”

Then the Devil led Jesus to Jerusalem,
set him up on the parapet of the Temple
and said, "If you are God's Own, throw yourself down from here, for scripture has it,
 'God will tell the angels to take care of you;
 With their hands they'll support you,
 That you may never stumble on a stone.'"

Jesus said to the Devil in reply, "It also says, 'Do not put God to the test.'"

When the Devil had finished all the temping, Jesus was left alone.
The Devil awaited another opportunity.

May God bless to our understanding these readings from scripture. Amen.

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

God Most High,
thank you for signs of your power and grace,
shown to us even in the wilderness.
Give us courage to stand firm in your Word
in every time of trial and testing,
that we may enter the land of your freedom
and receive the salvation you so generously give;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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: Reflection: Led by the Spirit

I walk a lot in our neighbourhood, as I've mentioned before, and on my morning walk I go by once, if not twice, the house on the corner of Locust and Frederick where Indigenous community members are invited to gather at the Healing of the Seven Generations. They offer programs and community: drumming circles and Indigenous language classes and a place of healing.

I have been dismayed to see that the Closed sign is showing in the window every time I go past, which I learned is because of the pandemic. I am dismayed because I have hoped to go in and introduce myself ... and do what? I'm not sure. I am apprehensive about what role I can take on in relation to the people and services that the Healing of the Seven Generations offer.

In our gospel reading today Jesus has been baptized and affirmed by God, and the Spirit of God has descended on him like a dove. He is then taken by the Spirit and led into the wilderness. We hear in various places in Luke's Gospel that Jesus takes himself out into the wilderness to rest, to get away from it all, but perhaps most importantly to commune with God. We don't hear of that in this passage, so it is hard to know, but one would think that God would have been on his mind at least some during the 40-day sojourn.

But what we do know is that Jesus does have to wrestle with temptations placed before him by the one identified as the devil—who offers to satisfy his great hunger by turning stone into bread; to give him power and authority over all the kingdoms of the world, if only he will worship the devil; and to prove how caring and protective of him God is. Jesus, deeply familiar with the Torah, offers scriptural negations of all that the devil proposes, and the devil leaves, for now.

I wonder how many times you have heard or thought, and I, for that matter, have thought, if not said or preached right out loud, that Jesus was able to overcome temptation, and we should go and do likewise. If we become familiar enough with scripture, if we deny ourselves enough, if we bolster our self-confidence enough, we too will be able to defeat the devil.

Well, this journey of faith is one of continual living and learning and growing. And the living and learning I've done tells me that there is no way I can defeat or overcome the devil. Left to my own devices, I would succumb, sooner or later, to each of those temptations, and many more. And I take some comfort in the fact that it's not just me. The church has wrestled for centuries with the inability of committed Christians to turn away from every temptation that comes their way.

So, if we are not to take from this story strategies and techniques for how to overcome the devil, then what is the point of the story?

Perhaps we are to look at it, not for what we should do, if only we were perfect, but to see what Jesus does do. And why is Jesus able to overcome each temptation? Because Jesus is of God. He is, as we have celebrated over the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany, God Incarnate, literally God in flesh. And he has grown in his humanity to the point that he knows he cannot do this without God.

So, we might argue, if we go about living life with God always with us, should we too, not be able to defeat the devil, and avoid all temptations? Alas, the answer is no.

The point is not to emulate Jesus. The point is to live in relationship with Jesus, and through Jesus, with God. As commentator James C. Howell states, "When we are tempted by the devil, we can be encouraged by the fact that we know and are loved by the One who conquered the devil."

And we don't have to single-handedly resist temptation. We need relationships. As Howell tells us, "John Chrysostom, Luther, and many others [have] pointed out that the devil attacks those who are lonely." So, we need to surround ourselves with other faithful people. Together we are too busy, too involved, too concerned for each other, so that temptation has less chance of gaining a foothold.

And that need for relationship exists not only to avoid the devil, but to help us realize our humanity. Howell again tells us, "We do not know how to pull off the stones-into-bread trick. We actually give a lot of bread, through food collections and soup kitchens. Jesus refused bread, preferring that metaphorical bread, God's Word.

Do we give bread without attaching the Word—God’s Word, or the words of established friendship?”

Now, I do hesitate here, because there is such a thing as “Rice Christians,” Christians who offered food and care to those in need, but only on the condition that those they would feed became Christians. It has happened in many parts of the world, including our own.

I think words of friendship and true caring about fellow human beings are what is needed when we reach out to others. And we can reach out to others with minimal self-interest if we are in relationship with God, and we are led by the Spirit.

I have said before that sometimes sermons are me talking to myself and inviting you to listen in. This is one of those cases. So back to the Indigenous folks at the Healing of the Seven Generations. I have read some, and learned some about the plight of many Indigenous people in Canada. The problems are immense and the need for action is immediate. It’s hard to know what is any one person’s to do.

But the sense I get from what I have learned is that an important step is to move beyond the “us” and “them” divide. Yes, we are not the same, and we do not have the same experiences or history. I cannot claim to understand their situation, nor do I have the gift of family and community teachings that would help me to understand. But I do have the opportunity to move past fear and uncertainty and guilt, to offer to be an ally, and perhaps in time, a friend. So I’ll have to continue to watch for the time when the sign in the window at Healing of the Seven Generations says Open. I will have to continue to communicate with God, trusting God to give me what I need, and trusting the Spirit to lead me to reach out in friendship. Then I can offer meaningful bread.

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

Amen.

Minute for Mission



International Women’s Day: Geeta’s Story

March 8 is International Women's Day, a day that is all about celebrating women's achievements and calling out inequality. Geeta's story is one example of why marking the day is so important.

When Geeta's husband died she not only lost her life partner but also her home. Because she was no longer married her in-laws wouldn't allow her to stay in their multi-generational residence.

Geeta is just one of an estimated 72 million women in India who are not married—nearly double the entire population of Canada. In India, most women are expected to marry and then live with their husband and his family. Unmarried women, even those who are widowed, are often seen as dishonourable. Like Geeta, they may suffer abuse.

Fortunately, Geeta was able to flee to her parents' home with her two younger children, but many parents will not allow their newly single daughters to return.

While Geeta and her younger children stayed with her parents, her in-laws stole her jewellery, changed the locks, and kept her two older children from her. That's when she turned to Mission & Service partner Astha Sansthan's Association of Strong Women Alone (ASWA) for help.

ASWA supports thousands of single women from low-income backgrounds in Rajasthan to defend their rights. The organization has also shared their advocacy methods and experiences with other groups across India.

Thanks to ASWA's help, Geeta's in-laws ultimately had to give back her jewellery, unlock her home, and return her older children to her care.

Today, Geeta is living peacefully with her children in her part of the house.

Your generous [support](#) provides life-saving advocacy. It is one way your gifts address crushing inequality and help build a better world for all. Thank you!

Offering Invitation

Giving is an act of worship, an act of relationship, an act of love.

And so, as we worship this God,
 who seeks us in relationship,
 who loved us into being,
we offer our gifts.

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. Leave your offering in 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 Lynda, to arrange Pre-Authorized Remittance payments (PAR)
5. E-transfer directly from your bank. E-mail to secretary@melvilleunited.com

Offering Prayer: *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 42, p. 17. Copyright 2022.*

With gratitude, O God,
for your commitment to us,
we bring these gifts to be used
for the church's work in the world.
Much more hesitantly,
and with more than a little trepidation,
we offer our commitment
to following in the way of Jesus,
with his unwavering commitment
to doing your will.
We know where that took him;
we fear where it may take us;
and yet we are here, O God,
and this is our solemn prayer.
Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Instructions

- Have your bread and juice/grapes ready with you
- After the Prayer of Thanksgiving, I will break the bread and pour the juice I have on behalf of us all
- Then I will invite you to eat and drink

Invitation

The celebration of communion
is always a festival of friends,
a pulling together of our loves and our hopes,
our moments of agony and our glimpses of victory.
It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared,
that we can most fully be ourselves
and see others for who they truly are:
sons and daughters of the living God.
Here the common things of life—
bread and wine,
memories and dreams—
become holy, touched by God.
Here that which is earthly becomes divine,
and that which is human
becomes more than it has ever dreamed.

Hymn: Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

MV173

1. Put peace into each other's hands,
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.
2. Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.
3. Put peace into each other's hands
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.
4. As at communion shape your hands
into a waiting cradle;
the gift of Christ receive, revere,
united round the table.
5. Put Christ into each other's hands,
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance,
and share it like a treasure.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *adapted from a prayer by Thom M. Shuman, **Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for March 6, 2022 (Lent 1 - C)** <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

May the God of wilderness hopes be with you.

And also with you.

Let us bring our hearts to God.

We offer them to God who fills them with life.

With songs on our lips and in our hearts, let us praise God.

We sing of what we believe, offering thanksgivings from our hearts.

From the deep wilderness of chaos,

...

with insiders and those who have stood outside

we offer our songs of praise to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Giver of all goodness.

Creation's heart overflows with joyous praise to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who is full of the Spirit.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God of mercy and hope,

...

we proclaim the word of faith that is so mysterious:

**Christ died, trusting in your continued presence;
Christ was raised, the first fruits of resurrection;
Christ will come making no distinction,
but welcoming all into that kingdom overflowing with mercy and hope.**

On the night before Jesus was taken away to his death,
God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer:

Preparation

Breaking and Distribution of the Elements

Prayer After Communion

**We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness;
that wine poured out replenishes;
that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another
is gift and grace. Amen**

Hymn: We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

**MV143 to the tune HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING at
VU716 My Life Flows On)**

1. We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
for we are part of all that is
within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life
in ev'ry earthly nation.
2. When bodies shiver in the night
and weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and warhorns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
to join in common labour,
that all may have abundant life
in oneness with their neighbour.

3. God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating,
that new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life
and peace endure forever.

Commissioning *Alwin Maben, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.36. Used with permission.*

May Jesus, the one who overcame temptation,
lead you through the wilderness of your life,
even when it means taking up the cross
and following him,
so that you may follow him faithfully
from suffering to redemption,
from death to life.

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 God of the Exodus lead us into freedom.

May the Holy Spirit bind us to God's will.

May Christ, God's only Son, show us the way of true
justice and peace.

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, all night I slept in your shadow,
sheltered by you.

Ps. 91:1; Deut. 28:8;

Rom. 10:12

As I enter into the gift of this day,
I trust that you are with me.

May I see signs and wonders of your presence in the world today,
for you alone are God.

I ask that this day afford me opportunities to celebrate and share with others the abundance of your grace and love.

Help me to be open to all people you bring my way,
for you yourself make no distinctions,
but are Lord of all.

In Christ's name, I pray. 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.*

God, my dwelling place, as the shadows fall, I rest in you.

Thank you for the faith that held me fast this day.

Thank you, too, for every person who offered me grace,
and for those to whom I could also show grace.

I pray this night for all who long to see a sign of your power
in the darkness that surrounds them.

Be near to them and show them your salvation.

And in the morning when I rise,

give me your work to do for another day;

in Jesus' name. Amen.