



April 10, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
April 10, 2022
Palm/Passion Sunday

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 – April 10, 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 on this Palm/Passion Sunday we join Jesus in the celebration of palms and parade, but in the recesses of our mind, we remember where that procession leads.

Announcements

• **We welcome today for baptism**

Wyatt Allan Antonio Mackenzie Nesbitt, son of Lisa and Reagan Nesbitt, brother of Caleb and Hannah, Grandson of Keith and Celine Clarke, and Carolyn Nesbitt, the late Antonio Cereceda, and the late Donald Nesbitt. We welcome all Wyatt's family, and his intended godparents Cindy Sketcher and Shane Nesbitt.

• **Organ Concert**

To showcase our extensively refurbished organ, on May 14th at 7:00pm Several area organists have been invited to share their gift of music. There will be a free will offering in support of Ukraine and The Hub

• **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.

• **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. The link to register: <https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtfu6tqjkjHddcBlyH4XGK4JcRqwQyeMKq>

- **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. For more information and registration visit <https://wowrucucc.ca>
 - 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 <https://www.campmenesetung.ca/>
 - Please pray for several other projects funded by our Mission & Service dollars throughout the Region
- **Gifts with Vision** 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 Christ Candle: *Laura J. Turnbull, **Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022**, p.37. 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)

Awesome God, as we enter Holy Week,
we are drawn to the flickering flame.
It burns brightly in our hearts.
Yet, we know that amidst the celebrations of this day,
there are those who want to extinguish the light in us and in Jesus.
May the radiance of Christ’s glory shine brightly,
this day and through the coming week.
In the name of the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.

Call to Worship: *Richard Bott, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.37. Used with permission.*

Here he comes!

Who?

The Messiah! The Christ!

God's chosen One! Hosanna!

Hosanna! Hallelujah!

He's at the gates now.

He'll be arriving any minute.

Have your palm branches ready!

Hosanna! Hallelujah!

That's right!

Here comes our king!

Hey, ho, away we go,

Riding on a donkey...

Wait! Why is a king riding on a donkey?

Why does he look so quiet

in the middle of our parade?

Where is his army?

Has he come to save the people?

Riding on a donkey.

No shouts of rebellion.

No army.

Just a message.

"God's kingdom is coming

and God's kingdom is here."

Just a message.

"Love one another

as I have loved you."

Let us worship this Servant King.

Let us worship our God.

Hymn: He Came Riding on a Donkey

VU 124

1 He came riding on a donkey,
he came riding into town;
slow and easy kind of lowly
he came riding with the dawn.
His disciples walked beside him,
staying close, a little shy;
not too sure where he would guide them,
on to live or on to die.
But all the morning sang his praises;
waking birds and dancing wind;
here he is, the Son of David;
riding on to take his throne.

2 Then the children gathered, singing
shouts of laughter, bursting cheer;
in the streets their song was ringing,
'Hosannas' filled the morning air.
Timid adults strained to see him,
caught the Spirit, joined the song;
spread their cloaks along before him,
branches flashing in the sun.
So all the city sang his praises;
waking streets and dancing crowd;
here he is, the Son of David;
our Messiah, Son of God.

3 In our fasting, and our feasting,
called to follow in his way;
called to walk his road to Easter,
called to live his cross today.
Hosanna to the Son of David,
hosanna in the heavens above;
blessed is he who comes to save us,
blessed is he who brings his love.
Let us join to sing his praises;
open hearts and souls to God;
he is with us, Son of David;
God's Messiah, Christ the Lord.
who out of love will befriend us.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Laura J. Turnbull, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.37, alt. Used with permission.*

**God of celebration,
we line up with the crowd
to herald the coming of your chosen one.
May the enthusiasm we feel this day
continue into the shadowed and difficult days of Holy Week.
Journey with us on this Palm Sunday
so that we are strengthened for the most holy of weeks.
With voices of hope, we shout, "Hosanna!" Amen.**

Call to Reconciliation *Sandy Ferguson, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.39, (excerpt, alt). Used with permission.*

As we come to our Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation,
we are invited to pray in the spirit of confession,
knowing in faith that God will always listen to us.

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 C, Volume 1. Copyright 2012.*

**God of heaven and earth,
we give you thanks for sending us Jesus Christ
in your name.**

Luke 19:38

**Even though we profess to follow him,
we confess that in times of trial we too often deny him.**

Luke 22:61

Forgive us and heal us, we pray.

**Help us to put our faith not in the princes of this world,
but only in the Prince of Peace.**

Ps. 118:9

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

It is our blessed God who helps us;

who will dare to call us guilty?

Isa. 50:9a

Because of the grace we receive in baptism,
we have nothing to fear.

Forgiven and freed,

We can live in joy and thanksgiving.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

Hymn: Out of Deep, Unordered Water **VU 453**

- 1 Out of deep, unordered water
God created land and life;
world of bird and beast, and later,
twosome people, husband, wife.
 There is water in the river
 bringing life to tree and plant.
 Let creation praise its giver:
 there is water in the font.

- 2 Water on the human forehead,
birthmark of the love of God,
is the sign of death and rising;
through the sea there runs a road.
 There is water in the river
 bringing life to tree and plant.
 Let creation praise its giver:
 there is water in the font.

- 3 Standing round the font reminds us
of the Hebrews' climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:
God has been this way before.
 There is water in the river
 bringing life to tree and plant.
 Let creation praise its giver:
 there is water in the font.

Statement of Purpose

The sacrament of baptism
proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.
By water and the Spirit,
we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
we are called God's own,
welcomed as children of God;
we are claimed by Christ,
united with Christ,
united with one another and the Christian community
of every time and place;
we are commissioned to Christ's ministry
of love, peace, and justice,
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit
for the work of the church in the world.

We hear in the letter of Paul to Titus:

...when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Presentation of Candidate

On behalf of the congregation of Melville United Church,
I present for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism,
Wyatt Allan Antonio Mackenzie Nesbitt,
Son of Lisa and Reagan Nesbitt
Brother of Caleb and Hannah
Grandson of Keith and Celine Clarke
and Carolyn Nesbitt and the late Antonio Cereceda, and the late Donald Nesbitt.
We welcome all Wyatt's family, and his intended godparents Cindy Sketcher and Shane Nesbitt.

Profession of Faith and Promises

To you, Lisa and Reagan, Wyatt's parents, I ask you the following questions on his behalf:
Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made
flesh, to reconcile and make new,
and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and
justice?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and actions?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Parents

In baptism, Wyatt marks an important step in his journey of faith.

Will you share your faith with Wyatt, growing with him in faith, hope, and love?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Godparents – *Cindy Sketcher and Shane Nesbitt*

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support Wyatt and his parents as they grow in faith?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment

The congregation is invited to stand, as they are able, to pledge their support.

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations, and to offer God's gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, and on behalf of the church universal do you promise your love, support, and care to Wyatt who is about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

We do, by the grace of God.

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Gracious and Holy God,

we bless you for the gift of life,

and, within it, the gift of water.

Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation.

By water, comes the growth of the earth.

Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.

In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do,

that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.

The Act of Baptism:

Baptism in the Name of the Triune God

What is the name of this child?

Wyatt Allan Antonio Mackenzie, I baptize you,

in the name of the Father,

and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God, Source of Love,

Jesus Christ, Love incarnate,

and the Holy Spirit, Love's power,

be with you today and always.

Amen.

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Wyatt, I mark you with the cross,

the sign of Love Incarnate.

Laying On of Hands

Wyatt, may the Holy Spirit, Love's power,

guide you, inspire you, and work within you,

all the days of your life.

Amen.

Lighting of a Candle

Wyatt, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good works,
and give glory to God.

Amen.

Declaration and Congregational Welcome/Presentation of Baptismal Certificate, Bible, Shawl

In the name of Jesus Christ, Wyatt has been received into the holy church universal, the body of Christ in the world.

Blessing

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

Amen.

And now I present to you, the newest member of the body of Christ, Wyatt Allan Antonio Mackenzie Nesbitt.

Sung Response: You Have Put on Christ VU 452

You have put on Christ,
in Christ you have been baptized.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Scripture: Luke 19:28-40 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*

Jesus enters Jerusalem to cheering crowds

Jesus went ahead with the ascent to Jerusalem.
Approaching Bethphage and Bethany,
near what is called the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions:
'Go into the village ahead of you.
Upon entering it, you'll find a tethered colt
that no one has yet ridden.
Untie it and lead it back.
If anyone should ask you, "Why are you untying it?"
say "The Rabbi needs it."'
They departed on their errand
and found things just as Jesus had said.
As they untied the colt,
its owners said to them, 'Why are you doing that?'
They explained that the Rabbi needed it.
Then the disciples led the animal to Jesus
and, laying their cloaks on it, helped him to mount.

People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along.
As they reached the descent from the Mount of Olives,
the entire crowd of disciples joined them
and began to rejoice and praise God loudly
for the display of power that they had seen, saying,

‘Blessed is the One
who comes in the name of our God!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest!’

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus,
‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples!’
Jesus replied, ‘I tell you, if they were to keep silent,
the very stones would cry out!’



Reflection: Mixed Emotions

From Creighton University Praying with our Imaginations:

Using the imagination in prayer has been a treasured tradition in prayer for centuries. It prompted St. Francis of Assisi to encourage people to create nativity scenes at Christmas, to imagine the Holy Family as people like we are. Four hundred years later, St. Ignatius of Loyola used imaginative prayer as a key part of his life-transforming Spiritual Exercises.

Our first gesture might be to open our hands on our lap, and to ask God to open our hearts and imaginations.

Now we begin to imagine the scene as if we are standing right there. What is around me? Who else is there? What do I hear in the scene? If I am in a house, what noises are in the house or in the street outside? What are the smells I can pick up?

Now we begin to imagine the scene we read about. Who is in it? What conversation takes place? What is the mood – tense? joyful? confused? angry?

Feel free to paint this picture in any way your imagination takes you. If we worry about historical accuracy, it can be a distraction that takes us away from prayer. This isn't scripture – this is letting God take our imaginations and reveal to us something of the intimate life of Jesus or others. If, in

our prayer, Mary pulls the toddler Jesus onto her lap to tie his shoes or zip his coat, we can let it happen that way. We don't want to fret about the historically accurate kinds of food served at a dinner or what kind of carpenter tools Joseph might have really had in his workshop. Here is an experience of prayer that lets our imaginations free themselves from anything that limits them. This is God revealing himself to us.

It helps if we imagine Jesus and his disciples as the real people they were who walked the earth.

Kate Gregory has done something like this, and invites us to step in to her imagination, to see the scene as she senses it might have been later on the day we have just read about: Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Mixed Emotions by Kate Gregory, *Gathering Lent/Easter 2013*, pp. 62-3. *Used with permission.*

Hey! Wow! What a day! This day is going to be remembered for years to come. Everything went off so well. It was a perfect plan – a great joke – it was a real slap in the face for Pilate, the governor. Him and his big black horse, so high and mighty, all pomp-and-circumstance, riding in at the west gate of Jerusalem! We showed him!

Jesus wasn't real sure about it, but Peter had the idea, and John added some of the details. In the end, Jesus went away and prayed about it for a while and then he came on board, and we all had a ball getting ready for it.

We had spread the word around that everyone should be at the eastern gate today. Everyone likes intrigue, so no one could resist coming to see what was going on. No one would be around at all for Pilate! I bet that got his goat.

We were going to put him on a horse, too, in armour, to mock Pilate, but Jesus sent us to get him a donkey – a mother one, nursing a colt. We put our cloaks on it, and Jesus sat on her. It was kind of weird. He said he would show them that he was a prince of peace, whatever that means. He made his own grand entrance, bigger than anything Pilate has ever seen!

Jesus was great. He showed everyone what he was made of and he said he fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah. That guy loves fulfilling prophecy. He believes God has it all planned out. I didn't know what he was talking about, but some folks said they did. They remembered what the prophet Zechariah said, and I learned it, because I think it's great. This is just exactly what Jesus did today and what he's going to do for the people of Israel:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Can you imagine that! Bringing peace to the ends of the earth! Wow! Jesus is going to destroy the Roman authorities forever.

We'd planned the whole day. After the parade, he was going to go to the Temple and see all the men and women selling doves and sheep in the Temple and he'd get a whip and start whopping them good! Send them all packing! What right have they got to gouge us to change our money for the Temple money?

Anyway, the way it happened, the parade was so popular and took so long to get into the city, by the time Jesus got to the Temple everyone had cleared out for the day and gone home. No value there. No one to rough up; no one from the Temple Authority watching, so no point. Jesus just came home. We'll do that tomorrow. Tonight we can rest and remember the excitement of the day.

Those Pharisees were there, too. "Tell your people to stop shouting," they said. Jesus always has the perfect comeback, you know. He said, "If they don't shout, the very stones will cry out!" "Yeah!" I cried out. "Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!" Man, that was great! Everyone put their cloaks and some leaves on the street, just like they do for the dignitaries. They treated Jesus just like the king he is.

I don't know what's up with Jesus tonight, though. You'd think he'd be drinking and laughing with the rest of us, but instead he's quiet, withdraw. He said something about going out to pray. Sometimes I can't figure out that guy. He talks to us about how he's going to die, and it's going to be soon. Is that any kind of talk for a future King of Israel?

He talks about us following him and picking up our cross. Sometimes he's right moody – no fun to be with at all. Gee, if he does die, the way he's been carrying on, it'll be on Golgotha, you know? That's what happens to people who cross the government. Ew! That wouldn't be nice. I've heard they beat you, drag you through the street, make you carry the big cross, and then you end up hanging on it.

Still, how could that even happen? He was in *total* control of that crowd today. He had them in the palm of his hands! They would have *eaten* the rocks if he'd asked them to! They would never turn on him, no more than we would. And if we're on his side, Pilate and the Pharisees wouldn't dare stop Jesus.

Nah, Jesus is just worried for nothing. Hey, he'll feel better in the morning. It's just all the excitement. He always feels better after a good night's sleep. Yah, that it. He's just tired. Well, the party's rockin', and I'm missing it. Tomorrow's going to be great.

Hymn: O Jesus I Have Promised **VU 120**

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

- 2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.

- 3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.

- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

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 Michael Webster, *Gathering: Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2011*, p.35, alt. Used with permission.

We say, O God, that everyone loves a parade,
but what does the parade celebrate?
Victory? Homecoming? Thanksgiving? Achievement?
Or the arrival of your beloved child,
come to show us your way in the world—our way in the world?
May those be our coats beneath his feet,
our hands waving palm branches.

Our prayers today are for a world in which so much seems right—
beauty, the warmth of the sun, the love of family and friends,
the sound of happy children, a world of wonder and possibility, and so much more.

Our prayers today are for a world in which so much seems wrong—
violence, poverty in the midst of plenty, hatred, violence, greed, bloodshed and war,
pain and suffering, disease and sorrow, loneliness and heartache, and so much more.

Today we pray for those who hope
that their dreams of a better world may be fulfilled.

And we pray for those who hurt,
that their pain may be eased both by our words and actions
and by the healing presence of your Spirit,
which filled and empowered Jesus, in whose name 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: Millions Face Food Shortages in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is on the verge of the worst crisis in its history. Even before the Taliban took control of the country last August, Afghans were already struggling with the effects of 40 years of conflict, the worst drought in 27 years, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Then, with restrictions on international funding put in place to prevent money from falling into the hands of the Taliban, humanitarian assistance was impeded.

The consequences have been devastating. The United Nations estimates that nearly 23 million Afghans—more than half the population—face potentially life-threatening food shortages, with nearly 9 million on the brink of famine. People also lack proper healthcare and are facing unemployment and housing shortages.

Our Mission & Service partner the Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) has been working hard to provide food packages to internally displaced families in Afghanistan during this emergency.

The life-saving packages contain staples like rice, sugar, oil, salt, beans, potatoes, and onions to feed a family for up to two months. So far, 133 families have received the packages, including widows and orphans.

“The most challenging issue was and is the fund transfer to Afghanistan because the banking system of the country is still almost completely frozen,” reports Zineb Naini, AMAN’s international program coordinator. “Nevertheless, we were able to reach these families and, in the future, we hope to reach many more. Recently we obtained a grant that will allow us to distribute food packages to about 400 families.”

Please make a gift through [Mission and Service](#) today. In the most difficult circumstances, your generosity helps sustain families and provide much needed hope.

Note: Out of concern for the safety of our partners, we are not able to share all the work the church is doing in Afghanistan.

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.*

God has given us his only Child, Jesus Christ,
as the way of our salvation.
Let us then give generously, as God has given to us.

Offering Hymn: What Can I Do **MV191**

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

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 web-site
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/melville-united-church>
4. Call or email Lynda, to arrange Pre-Authorized Remittance payments (PAR).
5. E-transfer directly from your bank. E-mail to secretary@melvilleunited.com

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

Offering Prayer *Laura J. Turnbull, **Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022**, p.39. Used with permission.*

God of the Journey,
we travel to Jerusalem
knowing that it is a noisy, busy community.
We gather with the crowds
that we too might share the holy meal.
In preparation, we present gifts—
our very best and our very selves.
May all we share be graciously received.
In the name of the giving Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Ride On! Ride on in Majesty **VU 127**

- 1 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry:
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

- 2 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

- 3 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
The winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

- 4 Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

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.

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May you know the love of Christ,
the mercy of the Father,
and the fire of the Spirit
as you go with the One God
who is Mother of us all.

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®]
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God, as I enter into this new day,
I ask that you keep me mindful
of the profound nature of this Holy Week.
Help me to go beyond the joyful parade of the palms
and to follow Jesus into the suffering of this world,
mindful that he was obedient to you, even to the cross. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®]
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Thank you, God, for the gift of this day.
If I remembered today my betrayals of you,
remind me now of your steadfast love for me,
as I give this day into your hands and rest in peace. Amen.