



**April 24, 2022**

**Melville United Church**

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Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

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Custodian

Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

Office hours

E-Mail

Web Site

Pastoral Care Numbers

Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Martha Duncan

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**Melville United Church**  
**April 24, 2022**  
**2nd Sunday of Easter**  
**Earth Sunday/Camping Sunday**

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Presiding today - Rev. Ruth Brown

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

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

*We gather in community today – April 24, 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.*

**Announcements**

• **Friday and Sunday Coffee Cancelled**

Friday and after Sunday service coffee hour is cancelled until further notice.

• **Organ Concert**

To showcase our extensively refurbished organ, on May 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.

• **Broadview Magazine**

Subscriptions are now due. The cost remains the same at \$25.00. Please pay your money to Ralph Rainford as soon as possible. Ralph will make himself available after the worship service on Sunday mornings outside the Chapel. Please promote this wonderful magazine to those who do not subscribe. Thank you for your support.

• **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.

• **From the Mission and Discipleship Commission:**

- Young Adults Together retreat for 19+ years in Fingal ON near St. Thomas from Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> to Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>. Information and registration is on the <https://wowrucucc.ca> website under Events.
- Camp Menesetung invites you to their “Clean Up Camp” day (pizza lunch provided) in the Goderich area, June 19<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm. Check the camp’s [website](#)
- 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](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: 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**

#### **Call to Worship**

Praise God in the holy temple!

**Praise God for mighty deeds!**

Praise God for bountiful mercies,

**Praise God who meets all our needs!**

#### **Opening Prayer**

**God of Grace and Glory in the death and resurrection of Jesus**

**We believe Your reign of wholeness is unleashed within us, our world and all of creation.**

**So open us to your empowering grace that we may be bearers of your redeeming love.**

**Through the risen Christ we pray. Amen**

#### **Hymn: All Creatures of our God and King VU 217**

1 All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing:  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Bright burning sun with golden beam,  
soft shining moon with silver gleam,  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

- 2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,  
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;  
O lights of evening, find a voice:  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 3 Earth, ever fertile, day by day  
brings forth rich blessings on our way:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,  
let them God's glory also show:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 4 And everyone of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and yield up all your care:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 5 Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in one:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

### **Thyme with God**

Happy Earth Day Sunday from your Garden Team. We are looking forward to a new season, once the weather starts to cooperate!

Some of the projects that we have planned for this year are:

- Continuing our battle with the creeping charlie in the grass
- reinforcing the chicken wire against our critter friends,
- repair of some of the wooden boards around the gardens that are in poor shape

We appreciate everyone's donations of time and gifts. We are thankful for this special space and your donations help to keep it going. Your gifts help us purchase plants that we are unable to grow from seed, soil, compost, fertilizer, and other tools.

- We have included special envelopes this morning for donations... cash is always welcome as well as gift cards to Canadian Tire, Home Hardware, and Little Tree Garden Centre

This spring we will have tomato and pepper seedlings available for sale. We have been growing some fun new varieties and they will be available in the next few weeks!

Starting on Mother's Day in just a few short weeks, we will have bundles of cut flowers available for sale after the service. We hope to have these bundles available throughout the summer made up of the flowers in our garden.

We welcome anyone to join us weekly for conversation, watering, and a little bit of weeding during the growing season.

Thanks from all of us: Kaillie, Shawna, Lauren, Barry and LindaMae  
For more information, please contact LindaMae at [ogilvielms@gmail.com](mailto:ogilvielms@gmail.com)

### **Prayer seeking Forgiveness**

Holy and Gracious God

Gathered as your people seeking to live faith-fully in the world,  
We confess;

**The self that is not aware of sinning  
The heart that is too hardened to repent  
The pride that dares not admit its wrongdoing  
The righteousness that knows no fault  
The callousness that has ceased to care  
The blindness that sees only its own will.**

*Silence for personal prayer*

### **Words of Assurance**

Nevertheless, in the lavender light of a new dawn  
this too we confess through grace upon grace.

**Out of the ruins of death and dead ends  
is God  
redeeming, restoring, resurrecting  
that we and all creation maybe filled with life anew.**

All praise and thanksgiving be to the God of Easter!  
Hallelujah Christ is Risen!

**Hallelujah Christ is Risen indeed!**

### **Scripture: Psalm 148 (VU 871)**

Praise God from the heavens; give praise in the heights!  
Give praise, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

**Praise God, sun and moon; give praise, stars and lights!  
Praise God, farthest heavens,  
and all waters beyond heaven!**

Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command  
they were created,  
who established them for all time,  
setting bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise God from the earth,  
great sea creatures and ocean depths,  
lightning and hail, snow and frost,  
gales that obey God's decree,**

all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars,  
wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound,  
**sovereigns who rule earth and its people,  
all who govern and judge this world,  
young men and women alike,  
old people and children together!**

Let all things praise the name of God,  
the name above every other,  
whose splendour covers heaven and earth.

**You give strength to your people,  
songs of praise to your faithful,  
to Israel, the people dear to your heart.**

**Scripture: John 20:19-31** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

*Jesus Appears to the Disciples*

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Sermon:** When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week.....

As individual believers, we each experience the mystery of Easter in our own way, in our own season and time. Yet as a community of faith, it's safe to say that we also share a common experience of the wondrous rising....

Living in this part of the hemisphere, this time of year, all creation seems to announce Easter in a myriad of ways. The birds begin the chattering just before dawn, the geese honk over head compelling us to look up, the snow drops dare to blossom through winter's last attempt of snow.

We join in this chorus of joy, courage, new life, singing. In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree, in cocoons a hidden promise butterflies will soon be free. Easter the hidden pearl of the Christian Faith.

After long winters dark and cold, comes the sweetness of spring with all its sights for sore eyes and the surging, pulsating, sometimes terrifying energy of the ebb and flow of water tides somehow mysterious in sync with pull of our moon and the turning of our planet, reshaping the shoreline be it sand or stone.

We are held in place by a constant imperceivable motion. An energy that perpetually leans toward rebalancing, renewing, restoring indeed resurrecting every living being.

Maybe you have seen the photo of a forest destroyed by fire, there is certain death....  
And yet and yet in time there is the rising out of the depths of earth through the layers of ash, the blossom of yellow flower....  
Or the concrete driveway that in time cracks so the earth, the ants the flowering weeds can surge.....

Our planet home has endured climate change for billions of years adjusting rebalancing resurrecting indeed things change there is devastation, death, extinction, and we cooperate or collude causing needless suffering and extinction...yet our faith proclaims clearly we humans are not the author of it all though we surely leave our mark....

The ancients were mindful of this too, this surging perpetual life beyond human will.  
A renewing energy, they ascribed it to God, the god and creator of all  
Breath of life, the breath of God, the wind of God  
Ruach.... they called it

Countless words woven throughout our ancient scriptures declaring the inseparable relationship between stardust and earth dust and everything in between, human, and otherwise breathing reviving restoring with the breath of God, this life renewing, restoring energy

fig trees, mustard seeds, birds of the air, wildflowers of the fields,  
The sacred cedars of Lebanon, star of Bethlehem, the whirlwind, leviathan, the whale, all creatures great and small, stone and sand and sea and sky teaming with divine life provided for and providing

Jesus and our faith ancestors could not conceive of life without this intricate web, it spoke to them of relationship with God and communicated god's wisdom....and expressed god's enduring desire to provide, to restore, to redeem, to even, out of destruction  
Resurrect abundant life  
God and god's servants, perpetually bent toward healing, restoration, wholeness

After he was crucified, dead and buried, after they were locked away in fear  
He met them  
Peace be with you.... he said.... then he breathed on them.....

Mary, Peter, John, the 12, Thomas, all of them with such grave need

Nevertheless, here we witness easter re-membering them,  
Resurrecting them....

As he spoke, as he drew near, as they walked together, as they shared a meal together, as they read stories together and sang hymns together

In the lavender light of dawn, along seashore, as the bright light of day faded into gray...

that perpetual, gracious, mysterious peace giving power

renewing restoring hope, love, life in them

in you, in me,

Thyme with God presentation today from the Garden Team

earth Sunday/ camping Sunday

call us to remember, where we are and whose we are

dwelling in god's whole house our whole life long

Easter faith invites to claim our hope in this

we are citizens of two interconnected worlds you might say

the human world....so terrifying....so locked away in fear...

and this world of creation this first lavender light of a new dawn world where the towering pines sway and vast mountain ranges stand and ants creep because it's the season for them to do so

....and see how even after the cold and snow and ice and death of winter

life returns, life even surges nevertheless....

Its not just us here, see how all this life rises up without us humans lifting a finger.....

see and remember

how we are part of this unspeakable wondrous beauty, how this life moves in us and around us....

we are not alone

breathe and be at peace

be still and know that I am

The peace of wild things (poem by Wendell Barry)

When despair for the world grows in me

and I wake in the night at the least sound

in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,

I go and lie down where the wood drake

rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things

who do not tax their lives with forethought

of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars

waiting with their light. For a time

I rest in the grace of the world and am free.

May it be so. Amen.

**Hymn: Breathe on me Breath of God****VU 382**

- 1 Breathe on me, breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.
- 2 Breathe on me, breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine,  
to do and to endure.
- 3 Breathe on me, breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.
- 4 Breathe on me, breath of God:  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

**Joys and Concerns****Prayers of the People****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.

**Offering Invitation**

The need is great, our gifts bountiful, and God's powerful and creative spirit is at work in us and others, so let us offer our gifts for God's work in the world.

**Offering Hymn: What Can I Do****MV 191**

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](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.

## Dedication Prayer:

**Bless the gifts of hearts and hands and voices united,  
Bless and use them dear and gracious God  
For the sake of the world you so love,  
Here among us and beyond.  
Through the Risen Christ we pray. Amen.**

## Hymn: The Spring has Come                      VU 187

- 1 The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!  
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!  
New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.  
New light, new day,  
the spring has come, let all the church be part of it!
- 2 The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!  
The world expands, let's spread the Gospel way in it!  
New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.  
New leaf, new thrust,  
the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
- 3 The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.  
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.  
New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.  
New bud, new shoot,  
the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!

## Benediction

May the grace of the risen Christ,  
The love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit  
Be with us all. **Amen**

## Postlude

### **Household Prayer for the Week**

Ancient of Days,  
we come to you with a jumble  
of feels and thinks,  
and needs and wants,  
and memories and tears,  
and griefs and joys.  
Some days we cry at good news,  
and laugh inappropriately at the  
brutal ugliness of...who knows what?  
Unravel us, please!  
Re-weave us, until we can see  
in the pattern of our days,  
both pain and healing,  
both sadness and gladness,  
both sowing and reaping.  
Weave our life between the weft and warp  
of memory and hope. Amen

*~Elisabeth R. Jones*