



**Celebrating**  
**176 Years**



**May 15, 2022**

Melville United Church

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Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

Office Administrator

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

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

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**Melville United Church**  
**May 15, 2022**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

**Welcome**

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, Shepherd and Lamb.

*We gather in community today – May 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.*

*We gather in this Easter season, as we continue to celebrate God's holy gift of the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. And as he is risen to new life, so are we, because of God's great love, promised the gift of new life too.*

**Announcements**

- **Seven Fallen Feathers Book Study Follow-up** to determine next steps will be held Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm by Zoom. Please let Rev Lynda know by email at revldgf@gmail.com or text/call 709-682-8756 if you would like to join in.
- **Meat Pies are on sale** – Please see a UCW member for yours!
- **Save the Date – Service of Covenanting between Rev Lynda, Melville UC and Western Ontario Waterways Region** is scheduled for **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, time to be determined. Please plan to attend this important service in the life of our ministry together.**
- **Take Out Picnic Dinner Saturday May 28 at Knox Elora Presbyterian Church**  
Pick up at 5:00, 5:30 or 6:00pm at the Handicap Door on the north side of the church. Menu is ham, assorted salads and dessert. Tickets Adults \$15, children 12 and under \$10. Call the church office at 519-846-0680 or email [knoxelora@wightman.ca](mailto:knoxelora@wightman.ca)
- **Ukraine Appeal**  
The invasion of Ukraine is costing precious lives and creating a humanitarian crisis as people flee to safety. Many millions of 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:**
  - 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 <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](http://www.giftswithvision.ca).
- **New Gifts with Vision for Ukraine**  
**A gift of \$25** will provide families fleeing Ukraine with a **hygiene kit** containing items like toothpaste, laundry detergent and disinfectant  
**A gift of \$38** will provide **one food basket** with staples such as cooking oil, buckwheat, canned fish and more  
**A gift of \$40** provides **one hygiene kit plus a supply of incontinence products**  
 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:** *Bob Root, **Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022**, p.42, alt. 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)*

Each new day reminds of us the light that dwells within us—  
 The light of Christ, light of the world, that God has placed deep within our hearts.  
 We light the Christ candle,  
 Remembering that we are made of light and love,  
 Remembering that we are called to bring light and love to others and the world.  
 Thanks be!

**Call to Worship:** *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 42, p. 127, alt. Copyright 2022.*

Come and see, Jesus is here.  
The one who humbled himself before others,  
the one who chose to serve  
rather than be served.  
Come and see, Jesus is calling us,  
come, let's sit at his feet,  
come, let's learn more about how to love.  
**Come, let's worship the One who is love.**

**Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**      **VU333**

- 1      Love divine, all loves excelling,  
          joy of heaven to earth come down,  
          fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
          all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
          pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
          enter every trembling heart.
  
- 2      Come, almighty to deliver;  
          let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
          nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
          serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
          glory in thy perfect love.
  
- 3      Finish, then, thy new creation;  
          pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
          perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
          till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
          lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Opening Prayer (in unison):** *Sharon Winegarden, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.45. Used with permission.*

**Surprising God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ**  
**you make all things new.**  
**Long ago you called your church**  
**to a love beyond all social and cultural differences**  
**and gave them the gift of your Holy Spirit**  
**to open their hearts to enact such love.**  
**As we gather for worship, give us that same spirit of openness,**  
**that we too might discern new directions in our day**  
**for your dream to reconcile and heal all creation.**  
**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Dedications

### Bible Stand

#### Move Voices Accompanist Editions

##### Prayer

Giver of all good gifts,  
it is by your power that all things are made holy.  
We give you thanks for your marvellous wonders,  
and for the work of human hands.  
Be with us now as we receive these memorial gifts  
that comes from you.  
We ask for your blessing and return it to your service.  
May your face shine upon what we do here this day,  
that all might draw nearer to you and praise you. Amen.

##### Presentation of the Gift

In memory of loved ones,  
I present this Bible stand  
to be dedication to the glory and praise of God.

In memory of loved ones,  
I present this More Voices Accompanist's Edition  
to be dedicated to the glory and praise of God.

On behalf of the congregation of Melville UC,  
with gratitude, we accept these gifts in memory of loved ones  
We will care for them, and we will use them reverently.

##### Words of Dedication

In the name of the holy and triune God:  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit,  
**we dedicate these gifts to the glory of God.**

With gratitude and reverence,  
**we dedicate these gifts to the glory of God.**

For the beauty of this holy place, to enhance our life of worship  
and for the sake of all God's people,

**we dedicate these gifts to the glory of God.**

In remembrance of Norman Collett  
**we dedicate these gifts to the glory of God.**

##### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.  
Creator God, source of all inspiration and beauty,  
we thank you for the gift of these objects  
now dedicated to the glory of your name.  
Gracious God,  
you are the source of all that exists in our world,  
you give us the gift of creativity, abilities and vision,  
the gift of materials with which to make what is needed,  
and the gift of your word of scripture given for our faith.  
We thank you for this Bible stand.  
May it cradle and support these pages of your word to us,

and may it lift up for us your light and truth shining forth.  
May we encounter your Word made flesh  
By the power of your Spirit at work among us all

We thank you for your faithful servant Don Grant,  
who generously offers this gift  
for the enrichment of your church.  
Bless and strengthen him with your love,  
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

God, you are the Singer and the Song;  
you call us to enter your gates with thanksgiving,  
to make a joyful noise in praise of you.  
Bless the use of these hymn books we dedicate today.  
May our musicians play psalms and hymns  
And inspire us to sing them  
with heart and soul and voice all our lives,  
and in the life of perfect praise yet to come. Amen.

**May your Holy Spirit guide us  
in reverent and loving use of all things,  
remembering always your great gift to us,  
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music “Majesty”** *words and music by Jack W. Hayford choral setting by Jack Schrader  
sung by Melville United Choir accompanied by Colleen Weber*

**Call to Reconciliation** *Thom M. Shuman, **Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for May 15, 2022 (Easter 5 - C)** <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission, alt..*

We show others who we are  
by the lives we lead,  
the words we speak,  
the actions we undertake.  
Let us confess how we have not acted as God's beloved children,  
when we fail to love as we have been loved.

**Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison)** *Thom M. Shuman, **Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for May 15, 2022 (Easter 5 - C)** <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission, alt..*

**Who are we to get in your way, Holy God?  
We put people into neat, little boxes,  
but you rip them open,  
so folks can dance in your joy.  
We imprison others with our unmet expectations,  
and you set them free with a Word.  
We build walls around those we don't know,  
and you tear them down,  
so they can run wild in the kingdom.**

**Who are we to get in your way, Saving Power,  
especially in the way of your forgiveness offered to all!  
Give us your vision that sees everyone as equal  
– forgiven, graced, loved –  
even as we seek to follow our Risen Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

***Silence is kept***

**Words of Assurance** *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for May 15, 2022 (Easter 5 - C)*  
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission, alt.

We know who God is by the love shown to us in Christ Jesus.

**We will show others who we are**

**– and Whose we are –**

**by the loved poured out by our lives.**

**Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

### **Children's Ministry**



“Today we are hearing a story about Peter and Cornelius. Peter was a Jew. Cornelius was a Gentile. Jews did not like or trust Gentiles. Because Gentiles would eat foods that Jews would not, Jews would not eat with Gentiles or even drink from a cup that a Gentile had used. Knowing that, listen to what happened between Peter and Cornelius.”

Walk through a piece of paper (8.5 x 11)

The paper expands like God's love and grace – it goes bigger, for everyone, just like the paper does

### **Hymn: Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love VU 574**

- 1 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,  
tender and true, tender and true,  
out of the heart of the Father above,  
streaming to me and to you:  
wonderful love, wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

- 2 Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell  
joyfully came, joyfully came,  
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,  
sharing their sorrow and shame,  
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,  
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.
- 3 Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;  
why do they roam? why do they roam?  
Love only waits to forgive and forget;  
home, weary wanderers, home!  
Wonderful love, wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.
- 4 Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!  
Come and abide, come and abide,  
lifting my life till it rises above  
envy and falsehood and pride:  
seeking to be, seeking to be  
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

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

O God of promise, *Acts 11:16; Rev. 21:5*  
your word made flesh in Jesus Christ  
is trustworthy and true.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit,  
may it rise up in us this day like a gift  
from the spring of the water of life  
to refresh our thirsty souls. **Amen.**

**Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6** *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*

*I saw a new heaven and a new earth*

Then I saw new heavens and a new earth.  
The former heavens and the former earth had passed away,  
and the sea existed no longer.  
I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
beautiful as a bride and groom on their wedding day.

And I heard a loud voice calling from the throne,  
“Look! God’s Tabernacle is among humankind!  
God will live with them;  
they will be God’s people, and God will be fully present among them.  
The Most High will wipe away every tear from their eyes.  
And death, mourning, crying and pain will be no more, for the old order has fallen.”

The One who sat on the throne said, “Look! I’m making everything new!”

and added, "Write this, for what I am saying is trustworthy and true."

And that One continued, "It is finished, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To those who are thirsty I will give drink freely from the spring of the water of life.

**Scripture: John 13:31-35** (*The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Translation*)

*A new commandment: love one another*

Once Judas left, Jesus said,

"Now is the Chosen One glorified  
and God is glorified as well.

If God has been glorified,  
God will in turn glorify the Chosen One  
and will do so very soon.

My little children,

I won't be with you much longer.

You'll look for me, but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you:

where I am going,

you cannot come.

I give you a new commandment:

Love one another.

And you're to love one another

the way I have loved you.

This is how all will know that you're my disciples:

that you truly love one another."

**Prayer** *Laura J. Turnbull, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.48. Used with permission.*

Ever-living God, may your Easter story become our story.

May the wonder and awe of lives made whole, take hold deep in our soul.

May we receive and live the miracle account of resurrection.

We pray in the name of the enlivening Christ. 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: Serving in Love



“Love one another as I have loved you.” This is Jesus’ commandment. But it’s hard to really grasp, and harder still to imagine living out to the degree that Jesus does.

Picture the scene: a young woman gets off an intercity bus on the edge of a small town in late winter. It is cold. She picks up her suitcase and heads to see the person who has arranged a job and accommodation for her at the diner attached to the house of the owner, Hannah. The next morning, the young woman, Percy, begins work as a waitress, to the surprise of most of the residents of the close-knit town. So begins the film, *The Spitfire Grill*.

But Percy has recently been released from jail, and when the rumor mill starts up, Percy quickly declares that indeed, she has been incarcerated. Her arrival and revelation sets off a chain of events that shows this quiet and cozy-seeming community does not really match up with its appearance. There are resentments and secrets of long standing, and distrust among some of the residents.

After having been in the community for a time, as the talk settles down, Percy tries to serve not just the diner’s customers, but also the owner, Hannah, who has had a hard life, and for her physical and mental well-being, needs to retire. Percy seeks to rescue her from her toil, and bring her to a time of peace.

As she is working on this, Percy is accused of a crime against Hannah that she has not committed. She is thought to have an accomplice, and police and townsfolk begin an intensive search to find and stop the unknown accomplice. Percy is put in jail, but is rescued by Hannah, who has come to understand that she is innocent. Percy realizes what is afoot, and who the police and townsfolk are likely looking for—a forlorn and mysterious figure living a simple life deep in the woods. She knows the person is innocent and dashes off to warn the person, an outsider like herself, regardless of the risk to herself. In making a clear choice to save the person from the overzealous searchers, Percy lays down her life.

There are many parallels between this story and our Gospel reading today.



Jesus is gathered with his friends, and there seems to be a deep camaraderie among them all. Jesus has willingly done the duty of the lowliest servant in washing the feet of the disciples, over their objections. He then calls them to share in the meal he has arranged. His act of loving service is accompanied by an exhortation for his friends and followers to love one another, as Jesus has loved them. So should they love each other. But not all is as it seems. Beneath the outward appearance of fellowship, there is one who will betray Jesus, another who will deny him over and over, and many more who will abandon him at the first sign of trouble.

Jesus is accused of a crime of which he is innocent. While he goes through the process of accusation, trial, verdict and punishment, he is well aware that he is doing exactly what he needs to do to save people—he lays down his life. And who he saves, is all people, regardless of their station or their welcome in the community, saving them **because** they are outsiders. He lives and dies his love.

“Love one another as I have loved you.” In the fullness of who Jesus is, it is a tall order. Do the disciples understand, even after Jesus’ death and resurrection, the extent of his love? Can we? That self-sacrificing love-in-action?

Are there outsiders in our circles? Those who for a multitude of reasons just don’t fit in to **our** communities, or **any** communities? Can we open our hearts and our lives to them?

Percy’s death did save her friend who was being hunted, but it did much more than that. As the townspeople became aware of what Percy had done in life and death for others, they themselves began to transform—from distrustful and resentful to caring, nurturing and working together for the betterment of themselves and their community. They began to open their hearts and minds to others and to hope, they found new ways to love.

May we do the same.

- 1 When I needed a neighbour, were you there,  
were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?
- 2 I was hungry and thirsty, were you there,  
were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?
- 3 I was cold, I was naked, were you there,  
were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?
- 4 When I needed a healer, were you there,  
were you there?  
When I needed a healer, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
were you there?
- 5 Wherever you travel I'll be there,  
I'll be there,  
wherever you travel I'll be there.  
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,  
I'll be there.

### **Joys and Concerns**

- Birthdays:
  - Richard and Peter Wright celebrate on Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Gary Sproule celebrates on Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Condolences:
  - We offer our deepest condolences to the Andrews family on the passing Brian Thorne, husband of Glenda (Andrews) and son-in-law of Havey and Vivian. Also, to the family of Norma Harrop who passed away peacefully on May 9th. She turned 92 at the end of March.

### **Preparation for Prayer**

Let us practice the art of Praying with our Eyes Wide Open, that in seeing the world and those within it we are called to tend we may be *opening the eyes of our hearts to all in need around us* (Lamont Koerner '81 MDiv God Pause for Thursday, September 16, 2021 from Luther Seminary):

**Prayers of the People** *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 42, p. 95. Copyright 2022, alt.*

Call: O God of love,

Response: **Raise us to new life in Christ**

In this season of Easter rejoicing,  
let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings  
for the church and the world saying,  
O God of love,  
**Raise us to new life in Christ.**

For the well-being of your creation,  
that we may promote its ability  
to offer praise to you through spacious skies,  
bountiful seas, verdant lands,  
and precious creatures great and small.  
O God of love,  
**Raise us to new life in Christ.**

For the life of the church,  
that our generous witness may broaden your table  
as all find a place to live and grow in love.  
O God of love,  
**Raise us to new life in Christ.**

For the welfare of your world,  
that all leaders and people young and old  
will strive to live together in harmony  
while serving the common good.  
O God of love,  
**Raise us to new life in Christ.**

For all who suffer any violence, pain, or grief,  
that they will know the comfort of your presence  
as you wipe every tear from their eyes.  
O God of love,  
**Raise us to new life in Christ.**

For the love made known to us in Jesus Christ  
through this community,  
for this and all other blessings we give you thanks and praise.  
O God of love,  
**Raise us to new life in Christ.**

For all who have died,  
that you will bring them to the fullness of your joy,  
where mourning and pain will be no more.  
O God of love,  
**Raise us to new life in Christ.**

For so many blessings,  
and for answered prayers,  
we give you thanks through Jesus Christ,  
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: Nourishing Bodies and Hearts: Ashrafi's Story



One in nine people around the world are going hungry according to the United Nations. Since the pandemic struck, 40 percent more people in need of a nutritious meal have turned to the Fred Victor Centre, a Mission & Service partner, for help. That's one of the reasons why the 240 community gardens it runs are so important.

"Every day, we'll see 250–300 people standing outside for food. That is all the encouragement we need to keep growing and cooking. We donate most of the fruits and vegetables to our kitchen, and our participants get fresh veggies and support from us," says Ashrafi, Fred Victor's garden centre coordinator.

Today, over 200 families, many living in poverty, grow their own nutritious food at Fred Victor's gardens thanks to generous supporters like you. But there's more to the gardens than the food.

Ashrafi says children learn where food comes from by gardening, and participants tell her they feel less stress and pain, have more energy, and meet new friends because of the gardens.

"People from different cultural backgrounds share their vegetables and herbs with each other. Through sharing, they come to appreciate each other. At the core, we are all the same," she says.

The garden has changed Ashrafi's life, too.

"As an immigrant, I came here feeling isolated. My family didn't know where to start. But now I feel I'm standing on my own feet and I know the community. Every day when I walk home from work

everyone says, 'Hi Ashrafi, how are you?' They make my day happier. I feel belonging because of the garden. It has changed my life. Thank you for your support."

**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.*

"I give you a new commandment,  
that you love one another.

*John 13:34*

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Let us with gladness offer to God  
the gifts of our labor, life, and love.

**Offering Hymn: What Can I Do**

**MV 191 OneLicense #A-740237**

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.

**Offering Prayer** *Thom M. Shuman, **Lectinary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for May 15, 2022 (Easter 5 - C)***

<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. *Used with permission, alt.*

You bless us in so many ways  
and with so many gifts, Loving God.

**As we praise you,**

**may we offer our gifts**

**so those who have so little**

**may be fed, clothed, healed, restored, and graced.**

**In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River** **VU 710**

Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod;  
with its crystal tide for ever  
flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river,

the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we every burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease,  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

**Commissioning** *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 42, p. 127. Copyright 2022.*

Go in love:

love that is broad and generous;

love that is often confusing;

love that is a sacrifice;

love that is self-giving;

love that is rich with others;

love that is community;

love that is peace.

### **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 God who has made you a new creation  
give you the grace to grow in faith, hope, love, and justice.

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

Delivering God,  
each day we awaken to your goodness  
and our hearts cry out in praise  
as you set us to tasks for the life of the world.  
Do not let us hinder your love,  
but strengthen our will,  
as we offer thanks in every simple gesture of this day. Amen.

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

Faithful God,  
the nightly dance of earth, moon, and stars  
speaks of your gift:  
love given, love received.  
We give thanks this night  
for the love you have shown to us this day.  
Let us rest in your peace and awaken in joy. Amen.