



May 22, 2022

Melville United Church

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Ministry of Music Team

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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
May 22, 2022
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, in whose name we receive the Holy Spirit.

We gather in community today – May 22nd, 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. There is ample room to socially distance, and you are welcome to wear masks if that is comfortable for you. 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

- UCW is selling **meat pies** \$4.50 each and **butter tarts** \$1.50 each. Drive by sales of meat pies, butter tarts, rhubarb from church parking lot **May 28th 9:00-12:00**. To pre order call Marg 519-843-3274 or email margfrayne@hotmail.com Cash or cheque payable to Melville United UCW.
- **Seven Fallen Feathers Book Study Follow-up** to determine next steps will be held Tuesday, May 24th 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.
- **Save the Date – Service of Covenanting between Rev Lynda, Melville UC and Western Ontario Waterways Region** is scheduled for **Sunday, June 5th at 11:00am**. Please plan to attend this important service in the life of our ministry together.
- **Blood Donation Event in Elora Thursday May 26th 1:30pm – 7:30pm** at The Grandway 7445 Wellington County Rd 21. Book now at blood.ca or on the GiveBlood app, or call **1-888-236-6283**.
- **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
- **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 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.
- **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
- 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. 135, alt. Copyright 2022.*

Come and see, Jesus is here,
his peace flows in
and through each one of us.

**Come and hear, the way to live,
come and find peace,
the peace that passes all understanding.**

Come and worship, Jesus is here.
The Prince of Peace invites us all
to come and see peace in action.

Hymn: Open My Eyes

VU 371

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see
 glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
 place in my hands the wonderful key
 that shall unclasp and set me free.
 Silently now I wait for thee,
 ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear
 voices of truth thou sendest clear;
 and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
 everything false will disappear.
 Silently now I wait for thee,
 ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

- 3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
 gladly the warm truth everywhere;
 open my heart and let me prepare
 love with thy children thus to share.
 Silently now I wait for thee,
 ready, my God, thy will to see.
 Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Richard Bott, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.46. Used with permission.*

**Holy Mystery, Great Spirit, Wisdom Child,
may our hearts overflow with your praise
like our earth overflows with her spring abundance.
God of our lives, in Jesus we find
the everyday and the sacred,
the death and the resurrection,
the human and the divine.
Help us, we pray,
to notice you in worship and in the world.
Help us, we pray, to follow you,
wherever we may go. Amen.**

Ministry of Music "Healing River" *words by Fran Minkoff and music by Fred Hellerman arranged by Mark Hayes played by Barry Rawn and Suzanne Flewelling*

Call to Reconciliation *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy with communion for May 22, 2022 (Easter 6 - C) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

How easy we can learn of God's love - but how hard it is to live it!
The world distracts us with its easy choices,
while we know how intentional we must be to love one another.
Join me as we confess our failures to love and we open our hearts to God, saying,

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.*

**Because you dwell in our hearts, Eternal God,
you know how the anger, the pain, the bitterness of our lives
try to crowd you out.
The noise of the world deafens us
to that Word which can heal us.
We want our children to be good, kind, and gentle to others,
and then they hear us call others names,
and speak of them with demeaning words.
Our desire for revenge towards those who have hurt us
shows that your peace, indeed, is not in us.
You promise a new heaven and a new earth,
so create new spirits and new lives within us, Healing God.
Shattered by our sin, your heart can still heal our brokenness.
Your Spirit, living deep within our souls, can teach us faithful ways.
Your Word, Jesus Christ the Risen One, whispers to us of your mercy, your hope, your love.**

Silence is kept

Words of Assurance *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy with communion for May 22, 2022 (Easter 6 - C)* <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.

The Word which can transform us is not some idle gossip,
but good news for us.

It fills us with forgiveness,

equips us for service,

and sends us forth to love others as God loves us.

In our midst, the Holy Spirit teaches us all we need to know,

gives us what we need in order to be faithful,

and fills us with peace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Children's Ministry: Dreams and Visions



Dreams – Have you heard the joke that a person had a dream about eating a giant marshmallow, and when they woke up their pillow was gone!

Sometimes dreams are a way of our mind clearing out the leftovers from the day, and so we might dream about flying or visiting with family or friends, or we might dream of having a yummy ice cream sundae. Sometimes dreams are just fun adventures like that, and sometimes they are important ideas and suggestions from the Holy Spirit or God.



Paul has a vision one night of a man from a place called Macedonia pleading for him to come to Macedonia and help the people there. Paul acted immediately on this vision and set out for

Macedonia to bring the Good News to them. After some time of travelling, they reached the city of Philippi, a major city in Macedonia. There they met Lydia, who worshipped God, and whose heart God opened, that she might learn from Paul. She and her household were baptized and she encouraged Paul and Silas to come and stay at her home, which they did. Because of the vision or dream that Paul received and the fact that he acted on it, he found some new friends of Jesus and taught them about the Good News of Jesus, and he and those with him had a place to stay.

We must listen carefully to our dreams when we're sleeping, and our visions when we're awake to learn which ones are important and which are just crazy dreams and wishes in our own heads.

Prayer/Blessing

May God help you to listen for dreams and visions and help you to figure out what to do with them.

Hymn: Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

OneLicense #A-740237

Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

1. God replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.
 Spirit, open my heart
 to the joy and pain of living.
 As you love may I love,
 in receiving and in giving,
 Spirit, open my heart.
2. Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.
 Spirit, open my heart
 to the joy and pain of living.
 As you love may I love,
 in receiving and in giving,
 Spirit, open my heart.
3. May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.
 Spirit, open my heart

to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

Prayer of Illumination *Julie Hutton, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.48. Used with permission.*

God of Love, without you, where would we be?
God of Joy, you have filled us with your joy and made us complete.
God of Truth, you have filled us with the Holy Spirit to carry your word to others.
God of Peace, our fears and worries have left us.
We will follow your commandments to the end of time.
God of Love, we are here, ready to receive your word for us today.
Thanks be to you. Amen.

Scripture: Acts 16:9-15 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

Paul, Lydia, and the women by the river

Then one night Paul had a vision.
A Macedonian stood before him and said,
“Come over to Macedonia and help us.”
After this vision, we immediately made efforts to get across to Macedonia,
convinced that God had called us to bring them the Good News.

We put out to sea from Troas and set a course straight for Samothrace,
and the next day on to Neapolis; from there we went to Philippi,
which is one of the bigger cities in Macedonia and a Roman colony,
and spent a few days there.

On the Sabbath we went along the river outside the gates,
thinking we might find a place of prayer.
We sat down and preached
to the women who had come to the gathering.
One of them was named Lydia, a devout woman from the town of Thyatira
who was in the purple-dye trade.
As she listened to us, Christ opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying.
After she and her household were baptized, she extended us an invitation:
“If you are convinced that I am a believer in Christ, please come and stay with us.
We accepted.

Scripture: John 14:23-29 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

The Holy Spirit will come to teach

Judas—not Iscariot—said, “Rabbi, why is it that you’ll reveal yourself to us,
and not to the whole world?”
Jesus answered,
“Those who love me will be true to my word,
and Abba God will love them;
and we will come to them

and make our dwelling place with them.
Those who don't love me
don't keep my words.
Yet the message you hear is not mine;
it comes from Abba God who sent me.
This much have I said to you while still with you;
but the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit
whom Abba God will send in my name,
will instruct you in everything
and she will remind you of all that I told you.
Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you;
but the kind of peace I give you
is not like the world's peace.
Don't let your hearts be distressed;
don't be fearful.
You've heard me say,
'I am going away but I will return.'
If you really loved me,
you would rejoice because I am going to Abba God,
for Abba is greater than I.
I tell you this now, before it happens,
so that when it happens you will believe.

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: Becoming Whole through the Holy Spirit



“Be perfect, therefore as Abba God in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made know through Jesus Christ.” ~ Blaise Pascal

I remember a friend recounting the panic they felt when they discovered that all their keys, the whole ring that allowed them access to much in life, had gone missing. They had had family friends and their young children over for a visit, and the little ones delighted in playing with shiny things like keys. They also discovered the cold air return in my friends’ century home—you know, one of those ornate grates in the wall at floor level with a flap that opens and shuts. When the keys went missing, you can imagine the dread that somehow, the keys became a toy that fit perfectly in the spaces of the cold air return!

Jesus is speaking to his disciples in the Upper Room on the night he is betrayed. He is imparting to them the most important lessons of his life and ministry, that he wants them to carry forward after his death. This Farewell Discourse or speech begins with an idea that is repeated frequently in the Bible: “stop being afraid,” or in his words, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled.” In our Gospel reading for today, Jesus reminds the disciples of what he has said only moments before, “Don’t let your hearts be distressed; don’t be fearful.”

But of course, who among the disciples **wouldn’t** be distressed or fearful. Jesus is telling them he is leaving. Already Jesus has identified Judas Iscariot as the one who will betray him, and Judas has left on that very errand. Jesus is speaking of his death, of leaving his followers. He has riled up the Jewish authorities, to the dismay of the disciples, and it seems only a matter of time until the bubble of this itinerant ministry is burst.

French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer, philosopher and theologian Blaise Pascal opined that there is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart [or soul] of each of us. I think fear makes us acutely aware of that vacuum or hole. It can become a yawning, gaping absence that we can’t bear. The hole is meant to be filled by God, but sometimes it takes a long time of living with that hole before we become aware of what it is truly meant to hold.

It’s a little like a toddler or young child, who reaches that age of being very intrigued by the concepts of “in” and “out.” The point of a crayon is just the right size and shape for stuffing in an electrical outlet. The nostril? The perfect shape and size for popping in a jelly bean, or for the very

unfortunate, a dried bean that swells disastrously. And in the olden days, a VCR slot was the perfect place to put that unwanted bologna sandwich. Good thing cats and dogs come with relatively small openings and a sense of self-preservation!

When we feel fear is when that vacuum, that hole, becomes a gaping abyss that must be filled. And fear can come in many forms: fear for our loved ones; fear for our health; fear for the future; fear of how others will perceive us; fear that we are somehow inadequate. Sometimes the hole yawns large because we don't acknowledge the fear. Sometimes it is because we are aware of it, but try very hard to deny its existence—we should be better than that, bigger than that. We know how to handle ourselves in the world!

Ah, the world. Jesus tells his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives." The world, and its rulers, would have us take lesson after lesson in the art of putting "in." The crayon, the bean, the sandwich, pleasure, wealth, power, fame, any drug of choice: alcohol, food, narcotics, gambling, sex...these are all the things the world tells us will fill that vacuum. Some are wise enough to see through the sham, but others, for an array of reasons are ready to try just about anything to alleviate the emptiness that fear has brought into sharp relief.

Jesus says, "Don't be afraid." But unlike some of the other moments when Jesus, or a prophet, speaking for God, tells people "don't be afraid," for God is with you, this time Jesus has some further comfort to offer. Jesus knows that time is running out and so has arranged with God that the people will not be left alone. There will be one coming, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Now this may be a little harder for people to wrap their heads around than, say, a warm fire, a cloak, or armour. But the Holy Spirit is so much more than any one of these things.

The Advocate, or Holy Spirit, is the one that will teach the disciples everything they need, and will remind them of all that Jesus has said. The peace that Jesus speaks of is the peace of having a being close at hand, that will prompt wisdom that Jesus has imparted throughout the three years of his ministry. The disciples will need to have Jesus' teachings close at hand in the days to come, and the Holy Spirit will be there to companion, revive, refresh them and what they have come to know.

Jesus promises that the disciples will have peace as Jesus gives it. And what Jesus gives is the promise that "those who love me will be true to my word, and Abba God will love them; and we will come to them and make our dwelling place with them." And this gift is not just for the disciples, but for all who love Jesus. The presence of the Triune God, Creator, Christ and Spirit, will dwell in the midst of the people. Not in some far off realm, but as near as our breath.

That is what the vacuum, the hole, is for: the dwelling of God. There is where the God of love chooses to live out that love, and invites us to live out our love—within our very selves. The New Revised Standard Version says that, "Those who love me will keep my word." We may think of that as following Jesus' teachings, but also as providing a space for Jesus, and through him, God.

Our love is our welcome, ourselves our hospitality. Fear magnifies and distorts what the hole is for, and it may be hard at times to imagine what will truly fit there, but if we look to the peace Jesus offers, the peace that is Jesus', we don't need to bother with what the world would tell us was peace. That worldly "peace" might be the absence of conflict or strife, but God's peace is about how we live with one another, and ourselves.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to be perfect as God is perfect. Scholars tell us that the Greek word for “perfect” *téleioi* means “brought to its end, finished; lacking nothing necessary to completeness.” Theologian Albert Barnes tells us, “Originally, it is applied to a piece of mechanism, as a machine that is complete in its parts. Applied to people, it refers to completeness of parts, or perfection, where no part is defective or wanting.” The Triune God, dwelling within us, is what makes us complete, with no part wanting.

If we are full of God, fear will not have the capacity to tear us open. Yes, there will still be fearful things in the world and in our lives, but if we are full of God, fear has no place to take hold. And among the uncertainties, the illnesses, the conflicts small and world-wide, we can experience the blessing of Christ’s peace.

Oh, and my friends’ keys? They didn’t end up in the bowels of the heating system. They fell into the recliner in the living room—nothing to fear!

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

Amen.

Hymn: Don’t Be Afraid **MV 90** **CCLI Lic. #1576520, CSPL201561**

Don’t be afraid.

My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don’t be afraid.

My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near. X2

Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays:
 - Gary Sproule celebrates on Sunday May 22nd

Preparation for Prayer

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

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

Call: God, send out your Spirit

Response: **and renew the face of the earth.**

In this season of the Spirit
let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings for the
world, saying,

Lord, send out your Spirit

Ps. 103:30

and renew the face of the earth.

All creation lives to praise you, O God.

Ps. 67:6

As the earth yields its blessing,
may we honor and protect the precious gifts of nature
and give thanks for the beauty, healing, and sustenance it
provides for all.

God, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

You bless your church throughout all the ages
with leaders like Paul and Lydia
to share in the spreading of the gospel.

Acts 16:9–15

Give to your church this day a
profound sense of the mission
to which you now call us
for the life and health of the world.

God, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

You judge the people with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.

Ps. 67:4

Give to all leaders and people
the gift of wisdom and the spirit of peace,
that we may walk by your light as we serve
the common good.

God, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

You promise to be with us always
through the comfort of your Holy Spirit.
Give to all who suffer violence, grief, or pain
an enduring trust in Jesus that joy will rise again.

John 14:25, 26, 28

God, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

We give thanks for the many blessings of our lives,
that as we follow Jesus,
he journeys with us day by day
through the presence of your Holy Spirit, our Advocate and teacher.

John 14:25, 26

God, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

You are alpha and omega, the beginning and the end.
Be with all who are born this day,
and those who will die,
that your will for them may be fulfilled;
and may we all come to share
in your heavenly city with voices of unending praise.

Rev. 22:13

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: Nutrition Program in Somalia Helps Save Lives



Hodan has three children. Her husband works as a charcoal burner and is the family breadwinner. He works hard but the \$3–\$5 he makes each day just isn't enough. Eight months ago the family had a farm. But all their livestock died during a devastating drought, and they had no choice but to leave their home to try to find help.

In Somalia, one in seven children die before the age of five. Therapeutic feeding centres dot the country, but they are overwhelmed. The country is going through its worst drought in 40 years, and more than half a million farmers and herders have lost their crops and animals. Humanitarian agencies say they have less than 3 percent of the money they need to help.

That's why for the last three years, in partnership with Development and Peace–Caritas Canada and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, your generosity through Mission & Service has been supporting a nutrition program in the Gedo region of Somalia. There, families receive nutrition education, supplements, and treatment for malnutrition in healthcare facilities.

Hodan's son Suheyb was badly malnourished when she brought him to the health facility for care. She had already tried everything she could on her own and he wasn't getting better. For just over a month, Suheyb received treatment. In the end, he got better.

"I never imagined that my child would recover," says Hodan. "I am very happy to see my child's health improve. I will continue to give him his therapeutic food regularly."

Even though there's enough food to feed everyone on the planet, conflict, climate change, disasters, and unjust systems that strip people of their resources mean that each of us has to be strongly committed to achieve the goal of a world without hunger. Please continue to [provide immediate support](#) and advocate for long-term solutions. Together, we *can* build a better world. 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 Hymn: What Can I Do

MV191 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

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 *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 42, p. 136. Copyright 2022.*

**For the peace that you give us,
we thank you.**

**For the love that you bring us,
we bless you.**

**For the gifts that you offer us,
we praise you.**

**Bringer of peace, and love,
and blessing
may the gifts we offer
bring peace where there is no peace,
and love, where love is sorely lacking.**

**May they be a source of blessing
and may they help to build
your beloved community and kin-dom.
Amen.**

Hymn: Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

VU 559

OneLicense #A-740237

- 1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

- 2 Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.

- 3 O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Commissioning *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 42, p. 138. Copyright 2022.*

Go in peace:

peace that is noisy;
peace that is filled with play;
peace that is filled with community;
peace that is filled games and singing and laughter;
peace that includes everyone;
peace that is safe and shared;
peace that is home to love.

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**[®] **Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1.** Copyright 2012.*

Holy Spirit,
enliven in us a faith and witness like Lydia's,
that through deepened prayer
we might rise to action in service of the gospel. Amen.

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God, it is night and the time for rest has come.
We have served you in love this day
and for this we give you thanks.
Do not leave us comfortless,
but send your Spirit to abide with us as we trust in you this night. Amen.