



**May 8, 2022**

Melville United Church

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Pastoral Care Numbers

709-682-8756, 519-843-3841

**Melville United Church**  
**May 8, 2022**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter/Christian Family Sunday**

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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 8<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, promising us the gift of new life too.*

**Announcements**

• **Organ Concert**

To showcase our extensively refurbished organ, on May 14<sup>th</sup> 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. Our organ will be played by Jurgen Petrenko, Matthias Schmidt, Kevin Lee, Betty Weinstein and Colleen Weber.

• **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](mailto:revldgf@gmail.com) or text/call 709-682-8756 if you would like to join in.

• **Friday and Sunday Coffee Cancelled**

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

• **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. 118, alt. Copyright 2022.*

Come and see the shepherd;  
listen to his voice and  
let him gently guide you  
where you may not want to go.

**Come and see, Jesus is here  
and is calling us by name.**

**Come let us worship our shepherd.**

**Hymn: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds VU344 OneLicense #A-740237**

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!  
It soothes the sorrows, heals the wounds,  
and drives away all fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary, rest.

3 Dear Name! the rock on which I build,  
my shield and hiding-place,  
my never-failing treasury, filled  
with boundless stores of grace.

4 Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,  
my Prophet, Priest, and King,  
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
accept the praise I bring.

5 The effort of my heart is weak,  
and cold my warmest thought;  
but when I see you whom I seek,  
I'll praise you as I ought.

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

O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.

When we experience lack and loss:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When we walk through the valleys of uncertainty, fear, evil, death:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When we need correction and guidance:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When you provide wisdom and healing:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When your goodness and steadfast loving-kindness pursue us:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When you receive us in your abode and provide a feast for us:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

When all of your people and creation sing together:

**O God, our good shepherd,  
in you is fullness of life.**

**Amen.**

**Ministry of Music:** "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" by William B. Bradbury, arranged by Stephen Walley, on the piano.

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

God is present to guide our journey  
and eager to forgive us when we go astray;  
therefore, in humility and faith,  
let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

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

**Holy God,  
we confess that we have strayed  
from your paths of right relationship and peace,  
and we have dishonored you,  
ourselves, and your creation;  
we repent of these hurtful ways.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
as we learn to forgive others,  
and guide our feet into the way of peace. 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.

God's mercy overflows as a healing spring  
to cleanse us of our offenses;  
therefore, know that you are forgiven  
and receive new life in Christ.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Children's Ministry



*Allegory of Christ as the Good Shepherd, 3<sup>rd</sup> century - One of the oldest representations of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, made around 300 AD.*

Psalm 23 links to the Good Shepherd who calls the sheep by name in the gospel and protects those who wear robes washed in the blood of the Lamb in Revelation. It is a great opportunity to share the **first known painting of Christ** which depicts him as a young strong shepherd. It was painted by an unknown Christian in the catacombs under Rome. In those days it was illegal to be Christian and Christians were thrown to the lions in the coliseum. They were clearly among those wearing robes washed in the blood of the Lamb. Imagine with worshipers walking quietly through the maze of tunnels lined with graves dug into the walls to meet a group of Christian friends at a certain grave to worship. Listen for the clank of Roman armor and be ready to run if needed. Note that in this situation people needed a strong good shepherd. We might link the psalm to the Revelation passage by considering all **the scary stuff in the psalm** – lack of food and water, wrong paths, the wolves and bears from which the shepherd's rod and staff protect the sheep even as they feast on the grass, and the shadow of death. Point out that Jesus the Good Shepherd does not make that scary stuff go away, but is with us in the middle of it. Read the psalm together imagining yourselves with the Christians to whom Revelation was written worshiping in the catacombs under Rome.

**Psalm 23 paraphrase by Bobby McFerrin**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5WadVmFe0o&list=RDt5WadVmFe0o&index=1>

**Hymn: Are You a Shepherd?    MV126    OneLicense #A-740237**

Are you a shepherd,  
Good shepherd who leads us  
Safely through danger, while calming our fears?  
Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,  
Shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

*Refrain:*    Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,  
                  But you are greater than all that we know.  
                  Holy and living, loving and giving,  
                  God, you are with us wherever we go.

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,  
Comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?  
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,  
Challenging students to offer their best?

*Refrain:*    Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,  
                  But you are greater than all that we know.  
                  Holy and living, loving and giving,  
                  God, you are with us wherever we go.

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,  
Lead all your children in paths that are right.  
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.  
We want to love you and bring you delight.

*Refrain:*    Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,  
                  But you are greater than all that we know.  
                  Holy and living, loving and giving,  
                  God, you are with us wherever we go.

**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.*

Shepherd of Souls,  
you call us to an abundant feast  
at the table of your word;  
open our hearts to feed on your goodness,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we might dwell evermore deeply in you. Amen.

**Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17** (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)

*The saints of God will never hunger or thirst again*

After that, I saw before me an immense crowd without number,  
from every nation, tribe, people and language.

They stood in front of the throne and the Lamb,  
dressed in long white robes and holding palm branches.

And they cried out in a loud voice,

“Salvation is of our God,  
Who sits on the throne,  
And of the lamb!”

All the angels who were encircling the throne, as well as the elders and the four living creatures,  
prostrated themselves before the throne.

They worshiped God with these words:

“Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen!”

Then one of the elders asked me, “These people in white robes—  
who are they, and where do they come from?”

I answered, “You are the one who knows.”

Then the elder said to me, “These are the ones who survived the great period of testing;  
they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.

That’s why they stand before God’s throne and the One they serve day and night in the Temple;  
the One who sits on the throne will shelter them forever.

Never again will they be hungry or thirsty;

the sun and its scorching heat will never beat down on them,

for the Lamb, who is at the centre of the throne, will be their shepherd  
and will lead them to springs of living water.

And God will wipe every last tear from their eyes.”

**Scripture: John 10:22-30** (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

*My sheep listen to my voice*

The time came for Hanukkah, the Feast of the Dedication, in Jerusalem.

It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the Temple area, in Solomon’s Porch,  
when the Temple authorities surrounded him and said,

“How long are you going to keep us in suspense?

If you really are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

Jesus replied,

“I did tell you,  
but you don’t believe.  
The work I do in my Abba’s name  
gives witness in my favour,  
but you don’t believe  
because you’re not my sheep.

My sheep hear my voice.

I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life,

and they will never be lost.

No one will ever

snatch them from my hand.

Abba God, who give them to me, is greater than anyone,  
and no one can steal them from Abba God.  
for Abba and I are One.”

**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: Reflection: A Ewe Lamb’s Musings**



I am standing over a lovely bit of fresh spring grass, nibbling away at it. It is so tasty! Cool and sweet, with just a hint of the comfortable and hopeful scent of damp earth—awakened once again so recently, to bring forth the bounty of creation.

I would love to just stay here and nibble all this brand-new grass, but the shepherd is gathering us all together to move us to another field. I’m not so fond of travelling to new spots—having to stay with the other sheep and keeping close to the shepherd. It is important though, I realize, to move. If we stay in one place too long, we’ll eat all the delicious grass and there will be nothing left to grow up again in the field. It probably seems kind of crazy to completely wipe out our source of food and well-being, but it’s just so easy to keep going, to get every little bit, but it’s happened more than once before. I think you might know something about using up all the good land. Anyway, the shepherd knows better, so off we go to another field.



I hardly remember the new grass. I was just a newborn lamb when spring came last year it's like I'm experiencing this brand-new grass really for the first time. And I have other more daunting new things to experience this year. There will be shearing for the first time soon. My mom has told me about it, but it's a little hard to imagine. I think I just have to experience it to get how it really works. And then I'm afraid I'll be cold. I know, it'll be too hot before we know it, and I'll wish my wool was super short again, but there are some frosty nights between now and then.

And lambing! I know you know something about that, and even celebrate the gift of parenthood and family. I'm expecting lambs of my own. It's a whole new experience. I have some sense of what will happen, but I know things don't always turn out as we might wish or expect. Sometimes we need help.

The one thing is, I can count on my shepherd. They take such good care of me. I would know my shepherd anywhere—that voice, that beloved face—I can trust that face! Whether it's getting ready to be sheared, or the rut that comes in the fall, or this time of preparing to give birth, I know my shepherd is there.

You know, some think we sheep are simpletons, without a brain in our head! But I can tell you, sheep are every bit as intelligent as cattle or pigs. I know faces and voices and I can sense emotions very well, just by the look on someone's face. And I know that my shepherd is steady and ready and cares deeply for me and all the flock. They lead me to pasture land and fresh water.

What about you? Do you have all these kinds of concerns? About over-using the good earth? About being productive? About future situations that you can only imagine now? About health and well-being? About having shelter? About your family and friends? Do you wonder who you can rely on?

There are so many challenges in our world today—yours and mine: conflict; what you can and can't do, and sometimes it changes sometimes abruptly; how you will care for yourself and yours. Sometimes it all seems just overwhelming.



But there is a Good Shepherd (with capital letters) that cares about all of us—me and you. The Good Shepherd cares about what is best for us, what is safe for us, and makes sure they are always around.

Sometimes we might stray—the grass looks greener over yonder. But our Good Shepherd knows each one of us and searches us out, bringing us back to the safety and comfort of their presence.

But even if we do stray, we are not punished, beyond what we do to ourselves by wandering off. The Good Shepherd is not punitive, but only wants us to live the fullest, best life we can, being of service, and giving where we can.

And the Good Shepherd assures us that they are one with the Creator, who we have heard is also a shepherd. They will work together for the good of all, offering strength and love and deep, deep caring.

There are still challenges in life. We will still have to be on the move to get to that which nourishes us. It will still be cold after that shearing. There will be risk in having offspring. There is the lure of that greener pasture. Challenges will always be there—for me and for you. The Good Shepherd doesn't promise us a free and easy life.

But the Good Shepherd has lived this life, and in his love, sacrificed himself for us and died, and the Creator brought them to new life. And in giving the Good Shepherd new life, Creator gave us new life too.



Even when our time in this pasture, in this flock, is done, the Good Shepherd will remain with us and guide us on to what comes next. It is a gift beyond measure. The Good Shepherd will walk with us through it all, a companion and guide for wherever we might seek pasture. And it is ours if we give ourselves over to the wisdom, love and care of the Good Shepherd.

I wish you and your little ones and your flock well. Thanks be for the gift of love and life.

May the road rise to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back,  
may the sun shine warm upon your face,  
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,  
and until we meet again,  
may the Creator hold you in the palm of their hand.

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

**Hymn: River Running in You and Me**

**MV163**

**OneLicense #A-740237**

River running in you and me,  
Spirit of life, deep mystery,  
dancing down to the holy sea,  
River run deep, River run free  
    River laughed on my birthing day,  
    Wind and water joined in play  
    Soaked my soul in a shining spray,  
    River run deep, River run free  
River, cry my name to me,  
lend me hope and memory,  
sing me the story of the holy sea  
River run deep, River run free  
    I stand on the edge, lookin' down,  
    too scared to swim, afraid I'll drown—  
    give me the courage to journey on,  
    River run deep, River run free  
Journey on far from my home,  
River – break this heart of stone;  
teach me to love, make me your own,  
River run deep, River run free  
    Hold me close on the day I die,  
    bear me up when my soul is tired,  
    carry me home on the rising tide,  
    River run deep, River run free  
River singin' in you and me  
Spirit of life – deep mystery—  
catch us up in your melody  
River run deep, River run free

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

Loving God,  
we give thanks for all that roots  
us in time and space  
and gives us a sense of belonging:  
for familiar places and people;  
and on this Christian Family Sunday, for family, as well as friends  
who make allowance for our quirks and foibles  
and love us as we are;  
for welcoming communities  
including, sometimes,  
the church.

But undergirding and far exceeding all of these,  
we give thanks for the security that comes  
from knowing that we belong to you.  
You are the Shepherd;  
we are the most fortunate of sheep  
entrusted to your care.  
You are the Vine;  
we are branches with your life  
surging from roots to the tips of our leaves.  
We are pilgrims;  
you are the Way.  
We are plants;  
you are the Ground of our Being.

All of this, on good days, we know and believe,  
but it is hard sometimes, and we falter.  
How much harder must it be for those  
who have no family and friends around them;  
those who have been forced out of their homes  
and face rejection and exploitation when they  
try to start again somewhere else.

We pray for homeless people and refugees;  
for all suffering the pain of bereavement  
or the isolation of loneliness;  
for those who have lost faith in other people,  
in themselves, and in you.  
May there be someone  
who goes on believing in them and for them  
until they are able to take the first, tentative steps

back to trusting once again.

Good Shepherd,  
if we are right about being part of your flock,  
safe within your care,  
then it is not for any merit of our own,  
and certainly not because you care for others any less.  
You want every lost sheep to be found,  
every injured one to be tended,  
every hungry one to be fed,  
and it is up to us,  
who bear your name,  
to work tirelessly with you  
to make that happen—  
not for our own glory,  
or even yours, but for love's sake alone.

May that love so heal and transform us  
that it spills out from us to the blessing of all around us.  
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: Food and Hygiene Kits for Ukraine**



*At the refugee point in Barabás, a small Hungarian village on the border of Ukraine, ACT Alliance member Hungarian Interchurch Aid offers food, drinks, and hygiene items for people fleeing the Ukraine war.  
Credit: Antii Yrjönen/FCA*

The scenes are heartbreaking: Families confined to underground subway stations. Children standing alone in endless lines at borders. Mothers printing their names and contact information in permanent marker on their children's backs lest they get separated—or worse.

By the end of March 2022, over 4 million refugees had fled Ukraine, 90 percent of them women and children.

Gifts with Vision—the United Church’s giving catalogue—has just unveiled its [latest gifts to help them\(opens in a new tab\)](#).

A gift of \$25 will provide families fleeing from Ukraine with a hygiene package 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, dried peas, and condensed milk; and \$40 will provide one hygiene package plus a supply of incontinence products.

“What really strikes me about the food basket is the attention to detail. It has chocolate and cookies in it. That speaks volumes to me about going beyond the survival basics and trying to build morale,” says Kathie Murphy, the United Church’s Annual Giving Associate. “The hygiene basket is so thoughtful, too. It’s not just about personal hygiene—it also includes laundry and cleaning products. And remembering incontinence materials for those who need them is all about helping people maintain their dignity.”

Sarah Charters, director of the United Church’s Philanthropy Unit, is glad the new gifts have been added in time for Christian Family Sunday. “It’s a day the church sets aside to reflect on the importance of families. I hope people will be inspired this year to take action for families fleeing Ukraine,” says Charters. “We can’t end the war in Ukraine, but we can do something to help. Every little bit of good we do makes a difference.”

You can give a gift of food and hygiene through [Gifts with Vision\(opens in a new tab\)](#) or by calling **1-844-715-7969**. Thank you for your generous 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.*

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”  
Trusting in divine care,  
let us present our tithes and offerings to God  
who restores our lives eternally.

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

Holy God, Divine Shepherd,  
you anoint us with the oil of gladness;  
your love overflows our hearts.  
Accept our offering for the good of the world  
as we joyfully give thanks for our life in you.  
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Hymn: Precious Lord, Take My Hand**      **VU670**      **OneLicense #A-740237**

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
lead me on, let me stand,  
    I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light:  
    take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear,  
precious Lord, linger near,  
    when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call,  
hold my hand lest I fall:  
    take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears,  
and the night draws near,  
    and the day is past and gone,  
at the river I stand,  
guide my feet, hold my hand:  
    take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

**Commissioning** *Wanda Winfield, **Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022**, p.50. Used with permission.*

God has called us by name, and we have chosen to follow.  
We follow the one who is both the shepherd and the lamb of God,  
the gatekeeper and the gate.  
In the name of Jesus, we go forth to be shepherds to the world,  
seeking to become the gateway to abundant living for all. Amen.

### **Change the Light/Blessings**

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.  
I'm not going to put it out, just change it.  
See how it is only in one place?

*\*Change Light\**

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.  
Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

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

May Christ the Good Shepherd  
bless and guide you this day and always.

**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.*

Holy God,  
you have called a people to be your family  
out of every tribe, language, and nation,  
to love and serve you daily  
in a world of beauty, complexity, and diversity.  
Help us to honor and respect  
the dignity of difference  
as we seek to be one with you and each other  
this day and always. 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.*

O Shepherd of all,  
you have brought us to the close of another day;  
for this gift and the blessings we now name,  
we give you thanks. . . .  
All that we have and all that we are come from you;  
and so, trusting in the goodness of your divine care,  
let us lie down this night in peace,  
that tomorrow we may rise to greet you in resurrection joy. Amen.