



**June 26, 2022**

Melville United Church

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**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday June 26th, 2022**  
**3rd after Pentecost**  
**8th in Ordinary Summertime**

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*Presiding today - Rev. Ruth Brown*

**Welcome**

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

We gather in community today – Sunday June 26th, 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. Masking and hand sanitizing are all optional and there is ample space for people to maintain social distancing if you feel more comfortable doing so. For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

**Announcements**

- Due to popular demand **UCW meat pies** are back and are only \$4.50 each! You can pay by either a cheque made out to Melville United Church UCW or cash. Please have the correct change if you can. **Contact Marg Frayne @ 519-843-3274** for your order.
- As more and more people find their dollar shrinking, and having to decide between rent and three meals a day, the demand for food bank assistance rises. We ask you to prayerfully consider if you are able to **support the food bank**, either with a donation of food, or financially.
- **Melville Photo Directory:** We are gathering this week for the first Photo Session on Mon - Thurs June 27 - 30th. Please arrive 10 minutes before your reserved time in the Chapel. You will be called into the Parlour for your photo. If you don't already have an appointment, see Lorna. 519-994-1939
- **Melville's Garage, Plant & Bake Sale:** Fri. & Sat July 8 & 9th, 10-4pm. Garage Sale Donation Drop-Off Day is Thurs July 7th, Noon 8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please start baking and freeze it. Your favourite recipes that are Tried & True. If you can package them in 2's, 4's or 6's, that would be great!
- **Kairos Blanket Exercise – Save the Date!** The Kairos Blanket Exercise has been developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and educators. It is an interactive and experiential teaching tool that explores the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the land we now know as Canada. It is a 2 to 3-hour workshop and will be offered **at Melville on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 1:30-4:30pm**. It is intended for those 14 and over, and is limited to 25-30 participants. Please contact Rev. Lynda to reserve a space.
- **Indigenous-Themed Summer Reading List** – for anyone who is interested. Shining Waters Regional Council offered a list of recommended readings on Indigenous history and contemporary relationships. The list is located on the bulletin board across from the Chapel.

- **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.**

- **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)

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

**Land Acknowledgement** *Peter Chynoweth, Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022, p.33. Used with permission.*

We acknowledge that this land on which we gather for worship is the traditional land of the people of Petun,

Haudenosaunee,

Anishinabewaki,

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation,

Odawa and

Mississauga nations. We acknowledge that we live on this land as people who have agreed to share the care and use of this land as a result of treaties—the Simcoe Patent—Treaty No. 4 and the Haldimand Treaty, that outlined the rights and responsibilities associated with our place in this land. May we be people who remember this with thanksgiving and respect.

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

*(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)*

In the light of Christ Jesus, we gather to worship God

**In the light of Christ Jesus, we seek to follow in faith, hope and love.**

### **Call to Worship:**

To witness an ebony quilt of sky stitched by beaming stars;  
And awaken to ancient cedar's sway dancing with the wind,

**Is to glimpse God's scattering of grace.**

To recognize an inner flutter and pulse as new life's movement in the womb;  
or hear a tone so sweetly sung that heaven opens within,

**Is to stand at the threshold of everything holy.**

To wonder at the sweep of a whale breaching the air from concealed depths;  
or gaze at the ripples and curves formed above by a cloud of wings on the move,

**Is to be breathless with praise for the radiance of God.**

### **Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth**

**VU 226**

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,  
    God of all, to you we raise  
    this our hymn of grateful praise.
  
- 2 For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light, R
  
- 3 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, R
  
- 4 For each perfect gift sublime  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, R

### **Opening Prayer:**

Intricate wonders adorn our days bidding us to consider them with grateful eyes.

**May our living sing praise to you, O God.**

Each lifetime permeated with quiet sacraments offered in common encounters yet reflecting your celestial light.

**May our living sing praise to you, O God.**

This banquet of humble mysteries nourishes our spirit's hunger when we can be still and receive.

**May our living sing praise to you, O God. Amen**

**Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-14** *(New Revised Standard Version)*

*Elijah Ascends to Heaven*

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

*Elisha Succeeds Elijah*

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water. He said, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah? Where is he?" He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

**Scripture: Luke 9:51-62** *(New Revised Standard Version)*

*A Samaritan Village Refuses to Receive Jesus*

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

*Would-Be Followers of Jesus*

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to

those at my home.” And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

**Sermon:** Following Jesus... struggle, comfort, and grace

**Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts                      MV 12**

- 1 Come touch our hearts that we may  
know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
to seek a world more gracious,  
come touch and bless our hearts.
  
- 2 Come touch our souls that we may  
know and love you,  
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
let life and beauty fill us,  
come touch and bless our souls.
  
- 3 Come touch our minds and teach us  
how to reason,  
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
help us to open doors of understanding,  
to welcome truth and wisdom,  
come touch and bless our minds.
  
- 4 Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve,  
steady now our nerve,  
come touch and bless our wills.
  
- 5 Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,  
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;  
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,  
our mind, our strength, our all,  
come touch us with your grace.

**Joys and Concerns**

- Birthdays:
  - Thelma French celebrates 98 years on June 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Barbara Zirk celebrates on Tues June 28<sup>th</sup>
- Anniversary:
  - Lynne & David Lamb celebrate 42 years on Tues June 28<sup>th</sup>
- A Big Celebration Coming Up:
  - Wilma Jamieson celebrates 100 years young on Sun July 17<sup>th</sup>. Please send her a card she would really appreciate it! If you don't have her address, call Lynda Rivet in the office, T, Th or F, or call Lorna. She is still in Elmira.

## **Prayers of the People and our Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **Offering Invitation**

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

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

**MV 191 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.

## **Dedication Prayer:**

**Gracious God, in gratitude and humility, we offer our gifts today  
to serve your cause and to make tangible your love.  
Through the grace of Christ, and the power of the spirit, may it be so. Amen.**

## **Hymn: Let There Be Light**

**VU 679**

- 1 Let there be light,  
let there be understanding,  
let all the nations gather,  
let them be face to face;
  
- 2 open our lips,  
open our minds to ponder,  
open the door of concord  
opening into grace;
  
- 3 perish the sword,  
perish the angry judgement,  
perish the bombs and hunger,  
perish the fight for gain;
  
- 4 hallow our love,  
hallow the deaths of martyrs,  
hallow their holy freedom,  
hallowed be your name;

- 5 your kingdom come,  
your spirit turn to language,  
your people speak together,  
your spirit never fade;
- 6 let there be light;  
open our hearts to wonder,  
perish the way of terror,  
hallow the world God made.

**Benediction:**

May the grace of Christ Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Sacred Spirit be with us all, this day and forevermore. **Amen**

**Postlude**

**Prayer for the Week:**

Gracious Holy One,  
As light spills through dappled trees,  
you are with me....  
As wind ripples through curtained windows,  
you are with me...  
As water smooths the sandy beach,  
you are with me....  
And so may it be....  
through each breath I breathe this day,  
a sense of your peace.  
with each step I take this day,  
a resurrected memory of your grace.  
in each word I speak this day,  
a portion of your compassion.  
In gratitude and humility, I pray for you are with me. Amen

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer and Prayer for the Week, adapted from *Circles of Grace: Worship and Prayer in the Everyday* by Keri K. Wehlander 1998 The United Church Publishing House.  
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