



***Celebrating
176 Years***



July 10, 2022

Melville United Church

300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9

Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M 2W7

519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach

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

Lynda Rivet

Robert Mitchell

Allan Hons

Alison Rainford, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.

secretary@melvilleunited.com

www.melvilleunited.com

709-682-8756, 519-843-3841

Melville United Church
July 10, 2022
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, who invites us to live life by serving our neighbours.

We gather in community today – July 10, 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 season after Pentecost also called Ordinary Time, a season of the commonplace and regular, the everyday time, between the feasts and grand celebrations. It is the regular time in our lives when faith lives, grows and sustains. Green is the colour for the season, evoking nature, growth, vitality, freshness, harmony, endurance and fertility. It is associated with healing and rest—the depth and stability of blue combined with the warmth and joy of yellow.

Announcements

- An **outdoor service** and hymn sing will be held on **Sunday, July 17th at 6:30pm** in the garden. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow. In case of inclement weather we will meet in the Chapel. We hope you will be able to join us!
- St. James Church invites you for **Breakfast in the Butterfly Garden – Saturday, July 23rd 8:30 and 10:30 sittings**. Call to reserve your seat and order your meal – by reservation only 519-843-2554 or 519-846-9039. Three meal options, \$12 each
- 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 in the process of working on a new Photo Directory. The last time that we had one was 2017! Is yours like mine? Getting pretty messy with changes of addresses and such? Please see Lorna Bevcar after Church Services, and book a time-slot to get your photo taken for it. It builds community and we need that, after the last Two Years! Everyone who has their photo in the book gets a free book and an 8" x 10" photo.
- **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 1st 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.

- **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

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: *Bob Root, Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022, p.35, 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)

We light the Christ candle, sign of the light that lives with us and within us.

God's generous light shines out from us!

We light this candle as a sign of the Christ-light we carry within us.

We are God's generous light in the world! Praise be!

Call to Worship:

We gather in community this day,

To pray, to share God's word, to sing our praises.

We gather in community this day,

To be inspired, sustained, challenged.

We gather in community this day,

With family, with our neighbours: those familiar and those we have yet to know.

We come to worship God.

Hymn: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy VU271

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.
- 3 There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?
- 5 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word®
Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2. Copyright 2013, alt.*

**Mighty and tender God,
we are called to love you
with all our heart, and with all our soul
and with all our strength, and with all our mind.
We are called to love our neighbour as ourself,
with all our heart, and with all our soul
and with all our strength and with all our mind.
Jesus tells us that if we do this, we will live.
God, we pray that you will show us the way of love,
as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Ministry of Music: A Gospel Medley - "Wings Of A Dove" words and music Bob Ferguson, "I Saw The Light" words and music Hank Williams, "I'll Fly Away" words and music Albert E. Brumley performed by Suzanne Flewelling, Barry Rawn & Rene Crespo

Call to Reconciliation Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2*. Copyright 2013, alt.

The God who demands justice from us
is the God who pours out mercy upon us.
Trusting in that gracious love,
before God and one another,
let us confess our sin, our shortcomings, our brokenness,
all that stands between us and one another, us and God
as we pray together our Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation,

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2*. Copyright 2013, alt.

God of Mercy:

**We confess that we have failed to live
as your beloved sons and daughters.
We have set our minds on the things of this world,
and we have neglected the inheritance of love
you bestow upon your saints.
We have pursued selfish aims in our daily business;
we have harbored uncharitable thoughts
toward our enemies and friends;
we have avoided difficult responsibilities
to our neighbors.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us from our selfish ways
and strengthen us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance Robin Wardlaw, *Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022*, p.45, alt. Used with permission.

May we be filled with the knowledge of God's will
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
and lead lives worthy of God, fully pleasing God,
as we bear fruit in every good work
and as we grow in the knowledge of God.
We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2*. Copyright 2013.

O God, as we receive your Word
through your Holy Spirit,
open our eyes to your justice,

open our ears to your judgment,
open our hearts to your love. **Amen.**

Scripture: Colossians 1:1-14 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

The word of God is bearing fruit in you

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Timothy,
To the holy and faithful sisters and brothers in Christ at Colossae:
Grace and peace to you from our Loving God.

We always give thanks to the Abba God of our Saviour Jesus Christ
whenever we pray for you,
ever since we heard about your faith in Christ Jesus
and the love you show toward all the holy ones,
because of the hope stored up for you in heaven.
It is only recently that you heard of this,
when it was announced in the message of the truth.
The Good News which has reached you is spreading all over the world;
it is producing the same fruit there as it did among you,
ever since you heard about God's grace and understood what it really is.
Epaphras, who taught you, is one of our closest coworkers
and a faithful labourer of Christ on our behalf,
and it was he who told us all about your love in the Spirit.

Therefore, since the day we heard about you,
we've been praying for you unceasingly
and asking that you attain the full knowledge of God's will,
in perfect wisdom and spiritual understanding.
Then you'll lead a life worthy and pleasing to our God in every way.
You'll multiply good words of every sort and grow in the knowledge of God.
And by the might of God's glory you'll be endowed with the strength needed
to stand fast and endure joyfully whatever may happen.

Thanks be to God for having made you worthy
to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light!
God rescued us from the authority of darkness
and brought us into the reign of Jesus, God's Only Begotten.
And it is through Jesus that we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

...In the Midst

Hymn: Bring Many Names

VU268

OneLicense #A-740237

1 Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!

- 2 Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and hosanna, strong mother God!

- 3 Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and hosanna, warm father God!

- 4 Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and hosanna, old, aching God!

- 5 Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and hosanna, young, growing God!

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

The parable of the Good Samaritan

An expert of the Law stood up to put Jesus to the test and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?"

Jesus answered, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

The expert of the Law replied:

"You must love the Most High God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your strength
and with all your mind,
and your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus said, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you'll live."

But the expert on the Law, seeking self-justification, pressed Jesus further:

"And just who is my neighbour?"

Jesus replied, "There was a traveller going down from Jerusalem to Jericho,
who fell prey to robbers.

The traveller was beaten, stripped naked, and left half-dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road;

the priest saw the traveller lying beside the road, but passed by on the other side.

Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way;

this one, too, saw the afflicted traveller and passed by on the other side.

"But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveller,
and filled with compassion, approached the traveller and dressed the wounds,

pouring on oil and wine.

Then the Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey,
went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one.

The next day the Samaritan took out two silver pieces
and gave them to the innkeeper with the request,

‘Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I’ll repay you on the way back.’

“Which of these three, in your opinion,
was the neighbour to the traveller who fell in with the robbers?”

Then answer came, “The one who showed compassion.”

Jesus replied, “Then go and do the same.”

Prayer *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2.** Copyright 2013, alt..*

Give your church, O God, *Luke 10:25–37*
the grace to serve you with courage,
that our lives may be a witness to your compassion
and our actions a testimony to your mercy.
Though Jesus Christ our Lord,
by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. **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:



When I realized that the Gospel reading for this week was the parable we call “The Good Samaritan” I cringed a little bit. Not because I have trouble with the text, but because it is so well known, within and beyond Christian worship, that I wondered what I might be able to say that was new or different or innovative or challenging.

An expert of the law, a lawyer we might understand, comes to ask Jesus a question, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?” and Jesus’ response is as often, not a direct answer, but to ask a couple of questions of his own: “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” The lawyer has a ready answer, love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and your neighbour as yourself. Jesus affirms his correct answer, saying “do this and you will live.” The questioner is still wondering though, “who is my neighbour?”

Jesus then tells a story of a man lying wounded on the notoriously dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho. A priest comes along, sees the man and crosses over to the other side. Likewise the Levite. Then a traveller from Samaria sees the man and immediately goes to his aid, binding up his wounds, and taking him to an inn for further care, footing the whole of the innkeeper’s bill until the man is healed.

And we know that the story is the more remarkable, because the traveller from Samaria is a stranger, and more than that, an enemy of the Jewish people, including the man wounded on the road. And since you already know that, **that’s** not a route to go with today’s reflection.

As I was researching, I came across a few different commentaries that offered a different consideration with this story. And it is one of perspective. We hear the parable and have a reaction to the people involved and the way the story unfolds because of who we are and where we sit in relation to the story.

The place we need to find ourselves to really understand the parable, is in the first century near-East, the time and place of those who were hearing the parable from Jesus, or reading it first in Luke’s gospel.

So first we come to the man who is set upon, stripped naked, injured and left for dead. He has left Jerusalem on his way to Jericho or points beyond. One would think, in the situation of Jesus’ audience that, this one is Jewish.

Next we encounter the priest, and shortly after, the Levite. These were both holy ones and the oft-understood reasoning for their not helping the injured person, is that they had to observe purity laws that would see them ritually unclean if they touched a dead body. However, they need only be ritually clean to enter the Temple, and as they are both leaving Jerusalem, this is not an immediate concern and one that could be rectified in the space of a week, if the set-upon person had in fact succumbed to their injuries. It’s important to be clear that the priest and Levite did not ignore the person because Jewish purity laws made it so they had to. They simply did not follow Jewish teachings that said to love neighbours and strangers alike. They exhibited human brokenness as we all do. So it’s not that the Samaritan is showing up the shortcomings of Judaic law.

The Samaritan is subject to the same Torah law that says to love neighbours and strangers. This Samaritan chooses to act on those decrees, and does so by not just helping the injured person, but also caring for them in a sustained way. As commentator Amy-Jill Levine says, the exhortation in the Law to love neighbours and strangers is not an item to be checked off on a “to-do” list. Love is not a

single action, but rather a life of righteousness. As Levine says,

Jews followed the Torah not to earn eternal life; this was already part of the covenant. They followed Torah in response to the gracious gift of the covenant that God gave them, because to do so prevented sin and because to do so showed how love of God and love of neighbour were to be manifested.

...

[The lawyer] thinks of “eternal life” as a commodity to be inherited or acquired rather than a gift freely given. He focuses on eternal life—his own salvation—when he should be, as Judaism teaches focused on loving God and neighbour, honour parents, eschewing stealing, and so on.

The lawyer asking “who then is my neighbour” is really a polite way of asking “Who is **not** my neighbour?” or “Who does not deserve my love?” or “Whose lack of food or shelter can I ignore?”

Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbour as ourself is not just a sporadic once in a while suggestion. Jesus is telling the lawyer and us that this is to be our way of life, and in so living, we will find life, the life lived in celebration of God’s great and unconditional gift to us of being in covenantal relationship with us.

Martin Luther King Jr., in preaching on this text spoke of the humility of it. Rick Warren has said that “Humility is not thinking less of ourselves, humility is thinking of ourselves less.” King preached, “It’s possible these men [the priest and the Levite] were afraid...And so the first question that the priest [and] the Levite asked was, ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’... But then the Good Samaritan came by, and he reverse the question: ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’”

Amy-Jill Levine offers us a stark re-contextualizing of this parable in today’s world. Samaria might be equated with the West Bank or Occupied Palestine. An Israeli Jew is on their way home from Jerusalem to Jericho. This one is attacked by thieves, beaten, stripped, robbed, and left half dead in a ditch. Two people who pass by should have stopped to help: a Jewish medic from the Israel Defence Forces; and an ecumenical accompanier with the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel. But the person who takes compassion on the injured one and shows them mercy is a Palestinian Muslim, one whose sympathies lie with Hamas, a political organization fundamentally opposed to Israel’s continued existence.

It’s hard to imagine a more daunting situation than for the Hamas-supporting Muslim to come to the aid and care for an Israeli Jew, not just in the moment, but for the long term, as much care as is needed—daunting for the Muslim giving the comfort and care, the Jew who is receiving it, and us to understand that Jesus’ message of love extends that far, because God is that good and merciful and caring of each one of us.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

VU593

OneLicense #A-740237

Jesu,* Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.

** 'Jesu' may be pronounced 'Yay-soo.'*

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them.
 Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
 show us how to serve
 the neighbours we have from you.

- 2 Neighbours are rich and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours are near and far away.
 Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
 show us how to serve
 the neighbours we have from you.

- 3 These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love,
all are neighbours to us and you.
 Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
 show us how to serve
 the neighbours we have from you.

- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.
 Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
 show us how to serve
 the neighbours we have from you.

Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays:
 - A Big Celebration coming up:
Wilma Jamieson celebrates 100 years young on Sun July 17th. Please send her a card or visit her! Her son has called the church, requesting cards or visits. If you don't have her address, call Lynda Rivet in the office, T, T or F, or call Lorna. She is still in Elmira.
 - Happy Birthday
 - Rev. Marion Loree celebrated on July 4th
 - Glenise Ladd celebrated on July 5th
 - David Lamb celebrated on July 7th
 - Doris Bowman celebrated on July 8th 99 years
 - Happy Anniversary
 - Alison & Ralph Rainford celebrated on July 4th 52 years

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 43, p. 44. Copyright 2022, alt.*

O God of grace and mercy:

Who is my neighbour?

Those I encounter every day
and those I may never meet.

Who is my neighbour?

Those I enjoy spending time
with and those I avoid.

Who is my neighbour?

Those who look and sound like me
and those who are very different.

God, we pray for our neighbours,
locally and globally,
in every corner of the world.

A world ravaged by war and disease,
by famine and drought,
a world in which darkness and suffering
so often have the upper hand.
God, convince us again and again
that it is not your will
that any should suffer
and show us how to bring change.

As we pray for miracles,
for war to end,
for peace to prevail,
for a just and equal sharing
of all the resources you have given,
for better stewardship of all creation,
may we know that,
every day,
we can be involved in miracles right where we are—
by doing what we can
with what we have in loving our neighbour.

God of infinite love,
may we offer all that we are
and all that we have
in the service of our neighbour

so that your will be done on earth
and your name be glorified
throughout the world.
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: Every Gift Is a Story of Generosity



Behind every act of generosity there's a story. Those who work in the United Church's Philanthropy Unit have the privilege of hearing these stories from generous supporters. Sometimes the story involves honouring someone significant through a gift; other times it's responding to a deep internal impulse to create positive change in the world.

Each story shared is inspiring, but this note included in a cheque sent by Rock Lake Pastoral Charge in Manitoba is especially delightful:

"Please find enclosed our cheque for \$125.00. One of our member's great-grandchildren rolled loose coins they found around the house. There was 1 roll of loonies, 6 rolls of quarters, 6 rolls of dimes, and 5 rolls of nickels. The three children ages 12, 9, and 7 were told if they rolled the coins, they could use the money however they wanted. They decided very quickly that they wanted to give it to children/people of Ukraine. They brought the money to Rock Lake Pastoral Charge and asked to have the money sent through The United Church of Canada for Emergency Response—Ukraine. They wanted it to go through the church because their great-grandmother loved the church."

This story represents thoughtful, intentional giving at its finest. "The children could have gone and bought a toy or chocolate bar, but they thought about it and decided to give it to help the people of Ukraine. They were so proud when they came into the office. It was a big heavy bag of coins they carried for seven or eight blocks to get here. They were really pleased to present it," says office administrator Linda Sharpe.

Every gift given is a treasure. Every gift given tells a story about generosity.

Thank you for [supporting the work we do together](#) as a United Church. May the story we tell in our giving and receiving bring us ever more near the heart of God.

Offering Invitation *Heather McClure, **Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022**, p. 47. Used with permission.*

As we travel, like pilgrims along the road, we encounter those who might need our help and those who might help us. Whatever we have, God invites us to share it with our fellow travellers. Our offering will now be received.

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. (x2)

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

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 (in unison) *Spill the Beans Resources Team, **spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 43**, p. 43. Copyright 2022.*

**We offer to you, O God,
all that you have given
to make us better neighbours
and better stewards
of the riches of the earth.
Accept our gifts,
offered in love,
for all the world.
Amen.**

Hymn: Come, We That Love the Lord VU715

- 1 Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known,
join in a song with sweet accord,
and thus surround the throne.

- 2 Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad.
- 3 The hill of Zion yields
a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields
or walk the golden streets.
- 4 Then let our songs abound,
and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high.

Commissioning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2**. Copyright 2013.*

Go and bear fruit!
Go and do!
Live a life that is worthy of the Lord.
Give joyful thanks to God
through loving your neighbor,
through doing justice,
through speaking out,
and through defending those
who are weak and oppressed.

Change the Light/Blessing

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 *VU 349.*

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
walk with you on the road.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart
open your hearts to love.
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,
and may everyone you meet
see the face of Christ in you.

Postlude: "Mansion Over the Hilltop" words and music by Ira Stanphill, performed by Suzanne Flewelling, Barry Rawn and Rene Crespo

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Arouse my heart, O God, to your love,
and let me love my neighbor
with the same consideration I desire for myself.
Through Christ I pray. Amen.

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O God, you have held me and cared for my wounded soul
in ways I may not have been aware.
Let me now rest from the labors of this day,
secure in your love.
Through Christ I pray. Amen.