



July 17, 2022

Melville United Church

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Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

Office hours

E-Mail

Web Site

Pastoral Care Numbers

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Martha Duncan

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Melville United Church
July 17, 2022
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, who calls us to justice.

We gather in community today – July 17, 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 to learn and grow in our faith.

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!
- **Melville Photo Directory:** We are in the process of working on a new Photo Directory. Sittings are happening the week of July 18th. Please contact Lorna for your appointment. Everyone who has their photo in the book gets a free book and an 8" x 10" photo.
- 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
- **Knox Presbyterian Church in Elora** is holding an online Silent Auction during the month of July. Items can be viewed at Knox's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/knoxelora or in person at Knox Church Saturdays in July from 1-3pm. Winners will be notified on July 31. The event will wrap up with a Hootenanny on July 31st starting at 6pm with the No Name Band and Friends. There will be hotdogs and ice cream available and the hat will be passed.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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: *Beth W. Johnston, Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022, p.36. Used with permission.*

This is the day God has made.

This is a day of wonder and grace.

This is a day to praise God.

This is a day to marvel at God's handiwork.

This is a day for seeking God's will.

This is a day to join our hearts in prayer and praise.

Let us worship together.

Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation **VU227** **CCLI Lic. #1576520, CSPL201561**

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Chelsea Masterman, Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022, p.41, alt. Used with permission.*

**Loving God,
as we join together to worship you today,
please help us to know your presence.
Sing your joy in us;
sing your comfort in us.
Ring out your peace, your love, your mercy and justice in us.
May your voice resonate through our bodies, our spirits, and our lives.
Birth in us life, new life, abundant life,
and equip us to share that life and love
with the world you so love,
for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Ministry of Music: "Touch of the Master's Hand" *by John Kramp and Myra Brooks Welch sung by Kim Wood accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling*

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.*

We live with this reality:
God never forgets what we have done
but, in mercy, forgives
those whose hearts are full of repentance.
Let us confess those things
that break our relationship with God,
assured that God will never break relationship with us,
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.*

Merciful God,
we confess that we have been distracted with many things
and have not loved you with our whole heart and strength.
We have not paid attention to your Word.
We have allowed the poor to be neglected
and the weak to be oppressed.
We have been impatient in worship
and insincere in our dealings with others.
We have ignored signs of injustice
and disregarded warnings of judgment.
Forgive us, we pray, and teach us repentance.
Free us from our habits of pride,
and make us steadfast in faith,
that we may live as those who are reconciled with you
in Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom we pray. Amen.

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

Though we were once estranged,
in Jesus Christ we have been reconciled with God.
Baptized, forgiven, and freed,
we are one with the Lord and with each other.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

Jesus visits Mary and Martha

As they travelled, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him to her home. She had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at Jesus' feet and listened to his words.

Martha, who was busy with all the details of hospitality, came to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, don't you care that my sister has left me all alone to do the household tasks? Tell her to help me!"

Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha! You're anxious and upset about so many things, but only a few things are necessary—really only one. Mary has chosen the better part, and she won't be deprived of it."

...In the Midst



May we find God in the midst of all our days.

Hymn: Seek Ye First the Kingdom VU356

- 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

- 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

- 3 We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah.

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, alt..*

O God, as the Scriptures are read and the gospel proclaimed,
open our ears to hear your Word,
open our eyes to see your truth,
and open our hearts to receive your grace. **Amen.**

Scripture: Amos 8:1-12 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

This is what the Sovereign YHWH showed me:
a basket of ripe figs.

God said, "What do you see, Amos?"

"I see a basket of ripe figs," I replied.

Then YHWH said to me:

"The time is ripe for my people, Israel.

I will no longer tolerate their atrocities.

The singers in the Temple will wail that day:
'So many corpses scattered anywhere. Hush!'"
—It is the Sovereign YHWH who speaks.
Listen to this, you who live off of the needy
and oppress the poor of the land,
you who say, "If only the New Moon were over so we could sell our grain."
and "When Sabbath is over,
we will sell our wheat
charging higher prices for smaller portions,
thus lifting the scales in our favour.
That way, we can buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals—
and even make a profit
on the chaff of the wheat!"
—YHWH swears by the Pride of Jacob, [that is, by the land itself]
"I will never forget a single thing you have done."
Will not the land tremble because of this,
and all who dwell in it mourn?
Will the land not rise up like the Nile,
rising and sinking like the river of Egypt?
"That day—
it is the Sovereign YHWH who speaks—
I will make the sun set at noon,
and darken the earth in broad daylight.
I will turn your feasts into funerals
and all your happy songs into dirges.
I will have your loins all in sackcloth,
your heads all shaved.
I will make the land mourn
as one would mourn for a dead child—
all of this on that bitter day!
The time is coming—
it is the Sovereign YHWH who speaks—
when I will send famine on the land:
not a famine of bread or thirst for water,
but a famine of not hearing the words of YHWH.
People will stagger from sea to sea
and wander from north to east
seeking revelation from YHWH,
but will not find it.

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..*

Almighty God,
you brought creation into being through Christ,
and in Christ all things find their purpose.
Open our eyes to see the world as your gift
and to use your gifts for the sake of Christ,
that through the witness of our lives

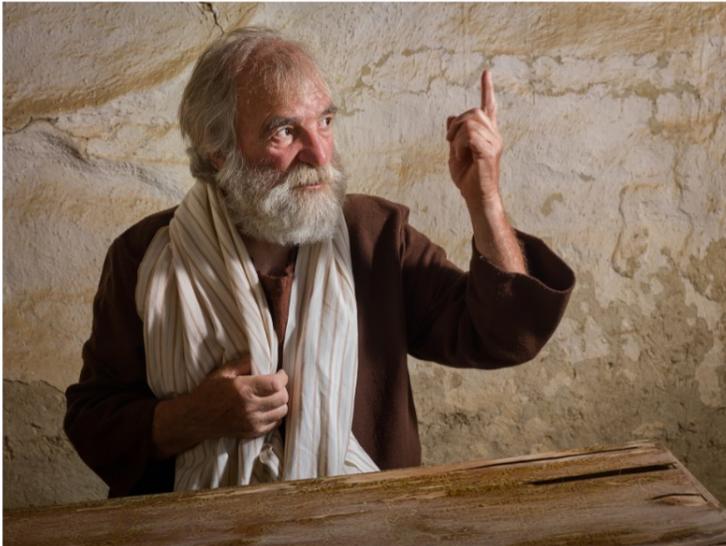
Col. 1:16–23

the gospel may be proclaimed to all people. **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: Prophet: A Thankless but Necessary Job



Have you ever had to be the bearer of bad news? Have you had to break it to someone that the plans they had made cannot be carried out? Think of how many times in these past two and a half years a parent has had to tell a child they can't go on that playdate, or they can't have the birthday party, or the trip they had planned for vacation can not happen now. We've had to get good at sharing disappointing news, or sometimes even calling someone out for what they have done. In our household it is everything from the kids neglecting to walk their dogs and having to clean up the consequences or the need to remove the garbage and dirty dishes and laundry from their room, to bigger issues of poor judgment calls that seem to be an inevitable part of adolescence.

Amos is the unlucky fellow we read about today who has to share the bad news. Amos is prophesying to the court of King Jeroboam of Israel. Now being a prophet is never an easy job, but it's perhaps made a little easier if one is appointed by the king to be prophet to the court. But that is not Amos' situation. Amos likely lived in Judah, the kingdom south of Israel, so right off the bat, he is an outsider and viewed with suspicion as a result. And then, he is not even a certified prophet, nor does he come from a family of prophets. He is, by his own admission a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees—a steady worker, but not the background one thinks of for a prophet. And then there is the message that Amos is told by God to deliver to the king and his court: God is very displeased with Jeroboam and Israel in general, and has told Amos to prophesy their destruction, in graphic detail.

And why is God displeased? Well, among other things, the Israelites "trample" on the needy and bring ruin to the poor. Those with goods to sell complain that they can't sell on the sabbath or at the new moon, and can't wait for the observance of these events to be over so they can get back to business. And the business they want to get back to, is charging exorbitant amounts for smaller and smaller measures of grain, using doctored scales to gain even greater advantage. They have no

regard for anything but lining their own pockets. Amos points out how power is being used abusively for self-serving purposes, denying other people's legal rights and human dignity. It's not at all a comfortable position that God has put Amos in, but Amos gamely answers God's call to tell the people.

And Amos tells the people the plans God has for their greed and disregard of human worth—and it's not pretty. "I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation." God also promises a famine, not of food or water, but of hearing God's word.

I have been listening to *Kuper Island*, a CBC podcast.

Duncan McCue, an Indigenous journalist, begins the first episode by saying, "I'm Duncan McCue. I'm a journalist, an Indigenous journalist. I'm doing a podcast about Indian residential schools and if Canada had had its way, I wouldn't be here. Because the whole point of creating a network of church-run, state-funded boarding schools that operated for over a century in Canada, was to get rid of people like me; to eradicate, assimilate, kill the Indian in the child. But I'm here. My ancestors went through a lot to get me here. So, let me tell you a story."

The story that McCue tells is the chilling history of the Kuper Island Residential School on an island off Vancouver Island. The school opened in 1889 and was run by the Catholic Church. A survey carried out in 1916 showed that of 264 former students 107 had died. While there are many chapters of the school's history that are not known, or readily available, is it known that two sisters drowned while trying to escape the school in 1959. Additionally, and addressed in the *Kuper Island* podcast, is the alleged suicide of another student in 1966. The federal government took over the administration of the school in 1969 and closed it in 1975. One person, a former employee, pled guilty to three charges of indecent assault and gross indecency in 1995.

Podcast host Duncan McCue search for and meet various former students of the school and learns of the abuse, sexual, physical, mental and emotional, that they suffered at the hands of the brothers and the nuns who ran the school. He and his production crew hunt down police reports, coroner's reports and eyewitnesses. In the course of this, the extent of abuse—sexual, physical, mental and emotional, degradation, neglect and many deaths, comes to light.

McCue also looks at the lives the survivors lived after they left Kuper Island. "The boys stayed silent about the abuse. For many, the silence would carry on for years, bottled up, ravaging their hearts, minds and souls." As one survivor said, "What if I get triggered? There's no one here to see. All I have is my wife." One woman who was a student at Kuper Island reports that of the 17 children in her family, only 2 still live, she and one sibling. She and her siblings suffered throughout their lives, particularly over the suspicious death of her brother at the school. Most siblings had multiple difficulties in life including alcoholism, unemployment, poor family relations and early deaths.

So much tragedy, so much pain and suffering, so bleak a picture. Where is God's grace in this?

In our scripture, although it is God who, through Amos' prophecy, threatens such dire consequences for the greed, injustice and disregard of the traders and merchants, God is also the one who sends Amos. Amos is a beacon in the gloom. Amos shows an almost miraculous willingness, persistence, to ensure the king and the people of Israel **know** the nature and extent of God's wrath, and the means God will use to address the injustices.

In the next and concluding chapter of the book, according to The Message, God says, "I'm throwing Israel into a sieve among all the nations and shaking them good, shaking out all the sin, all the sinners. No real grain will be lost, but all the sinners will be sifted out and thrown away, the people who say, 'Nothing bad will ever happen in our lifetime. It won't even come close.'

"But also on that Judgment Day," says God, "I will restore David's house that has fallen to pieces...Everything will be happening at once—and everywhere you look, blessings! Blessings like wine pouring off the mountains and hills. I'll make everything right again for my people Israel..."

The sinners are on notice that they will be sifted out, they have opportunity to do something about their ways. It is their choice as to whether they will follow Amos' prophesy and seek to restore justice, or if they will leave it to God to do in God's way.

In *Kuper Island*, the investigative journalism of Duncan McCue and his team lift to the light the enormous injustices that were perpetrated in the name of assimilating "the Indian," and eliminating "the Indian problem." The podcast serves to bring us face-to-face with what has happened, and the drive to ensure that those who have been affected by their own or family members' residential school experience will be heard, believed and helped. The podcast and those involved in making it happen may not be Prophets in the sense of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Amos, but they are definitely prophets, working to address injustice and help to bring about restoration. May we hear their words.

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

Hymn: Be Thou My Vision VU642

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays:
 - A Big Celebration coming up:
Wilma Jamieson celebrates 100 years young today. Please send her a card or visit her! Her son has called the church, requesting cards or visits.
 - Happy Birthday
 - Mildred Perkin celebrates 80 years on July 21st
 - Millie Cumming celebrates on July 21st
 - Ruth Sproule celebrates on July 23rd
 - Happy Anniversary
 - Ioan and Elmer Shortt will celebrate 70 years on July 19th

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 2*. Copyright 2013, alt.

Call: And so we pray

Response: **God, save us, heal us, and make us whole.**

Creator God, as we look at the world you have made,
we notice that the songs of love that you wanted us to sing
have turned into cries of abuse, oppression, and prejudice.
We have abused the planet that you have provided
for us to inhabit and to share with other creatures.
We have wasted the water, abused other resources,
limited access to food, and marked borders of inhospitality.
We pray for this world in need of restoration
and ask that you provide us with the tools and the intelligence
needed to rebuild the world you created for us.
And so we pray
God, save us, heal us, and make us whole.

There is oppression in the world that we live in.
We see it in the ways human beings treat one another,
taking advantage of those considered to be of less value.
We turn our eyes away when we see the needy being trampled
or the poor being stashed out of sight.
May your will be the last word,
and the church an effective witness
to the Sovereign Lord in our midst.
And so we pray
God, save us, heal us, and make us whole.

We see prejudice in our relationships, Lord.
We judge one another,
not with justice and fairness,
but with fear and misinformation.
It is easier to demonize
than to take the time to listen
and to establish relationships.
It is easier to assume
than to ask questions and to acquire knowledge.
Make us agents of peace
and restore our songs of love
for you and for one another.
And so we pray
God, save us, heal us, and make us whole. 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.

Mission Story: The Centre Wellington Food Bank

"In 1984, just a few years after Canada's first food bank opened in Edmonton, several churches came together to establish a food pantry in the basement of Melville United Church. By 1997, the volume of food distributed, number of clients served and roster of volunteers had grown to the point where the Centre Wellington Food Bank needed to hire a manager.

The charity moved several times before settling in 2009 in its present home in the historic Fergus Marketplace in Fergus. To reduce operating costs and ensure continuity, the Food Bank purchased the premises in 2013."

More and more folks in our area need help to feed themselves and their families. Please help to fight hunger in whatever way you can - by donating food or money, by organizing a Food Drive or Fundraiser or by volunteering some of your time.

Offering Invitation

Because God first loved us,
we are made to love one another.
For the sake of the life of the world, let us offer ourselves,
our time, and our possessions as signs of love.

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 Prayer (in unison) *Elise Feltrin, Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022, p.47. Used with permission.*

**Bless, O God, these gifts we offer,
shared with open palms rather than clenched fists
and given out of gratitude rather than out of obligation.
May they offer life and abundance to any in need
and inspire further generosity through the giving and receiving.
We are grateful for this opportunity to give and do so in Christ's name. Amen.**

Hymn: We Are Pilgrims VU595

CCLI Lic. #1576520, CSPL201561

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

- 2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

- 4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Commissioning *George Allan, Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2022, p.50. Used with permission.*

Move out in the world,
work in the world,
rejoice in the world,
but don't let the world take you over.
Be open to God,
and, in sharing with your neighbour,
reach always for God's grace.

Change the Light

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**[®] **Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2**. Copyright 2013.*

Receive the blessing of God,
whose mercy knows no ends.

Receive the blessing of Christ,
who is patient and eager to give us words of life.

Receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit
who moves us and gives us power to do God's will.

Receive the blessing of the triune God,
and share this blessing with others!

Postlude:

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

Dear God, as I begin this day
I renew my commitment to live
as an agent of your reconciling love.
Keep my actions holy,
my thoughts blameless,
and my intentions irreproachable.
Let me be firm in the hope
promised by the gospel,
that my life may bear witness to Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

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

Our brother Jesus,
the labors of the day are over
and the evening rest begins.
If I have been busy with too many things,
return my thoughts to what is needful.
At last, let me know the better part you have promised
will not be taken away,
that I may sleep in your peace
and awaken with renewed attentiveness to your presence. Amen.