



October 2, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
October 2, 2022
World Communion Sunday
Creation Time 4

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of the Triune God, Creator, Christ and Spirit.

We gather in community today – October 2, 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 time within the season after Pentecost called Creation Time, a time of considering God's will for us through the lens of creation. The colour for the season is orange, a warm colour associated with enthusiasm, creativity, fruitfulness, endurance and strength, as well as with sunrise and sunset, fall and harvest, and the changing seasons—nature's last burst of colour before winter. It is the red of passion tempered by the yellow of wisdom.

Announcements

- **Melville Choir** is meeting again and you are most welcome to join in! Rehearsals are on **Thursdays at 7:00pm**. Please contact Colleen Weber for more details or just come on out.
- **Melville Reads – you are invited to a Zoom book study on Monday October 3rd at 7:00pm**. We will be talking about books we have read from the Indigenous-themed reading list to determine if there is one we would like to study. Whether you have read any of these books or not, you are most welcome to join in the meeting. Please advise Rev. Lynda if you are interested so the Zoom link can be sent to you.
- 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.
- **Tuition-Free Supportive Care Program** through Conestoga College – this is an 18-week program. Receive tuition-free training to develop skills to deliver quality, safe, and ethical supportive care, as well as to collaborate with an interprofessional team in clients' homes. For more information, a flyer is posted on the *Melville and Local Events board* in the hallway or visit <https://www.conestogac.on.ca/fulltime/supportive-care>

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: *Jim McKean, **Gathering: Pentecost 2 2022**, p.31. 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)

The light of Christ shines through our voice and words,
through our gestures and actions,
and through the face we present to the world.

So let us light this candle

to remind us that we can be the Light of Christ for all.

Call to Worship: *Heather Ferrier, **Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022**, p.42. Used with permission.*

It takes a variety of ingredients to make bread.

It takes a variety of people to be the church.

A measure of wheat flour.

People from farmland and prairie.

A measure of water and salt.

People from coastland and islands.

A measure of sparkling sugar.

People from the snowy north.

We mix them all together with enough yeast to leaven the bread.

We come together, too, to be uplifted and transformed!

Hymn: God of the Bible

MV28

OneLicense #A-740237

1. God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change. (2x)
2. God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empow’r us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change. (2x)

3. Those without status, those who are nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change. (2x)

4. Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change. (2x)

5. Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other,
till our world changes facing the cross.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change. (2x)

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Richard Bott, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022, p.42. Used with permission.*

With water and light, you created all things, O God.

Pour down on your creation the water that gives new life.

Stream down on all places the light that gives growth.

Alleluia! Let it be!

With bread and wine, you reminded us that we are always yours, O God.

Fill all who are hungry with the bread that gives new life.

Fill all who are thirsty with the wine of Christ's love.

Alleluia! Let it be!

In this place.

In all places.

Let it be!

Alleluia! Amen.

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.*

We turn to God in praise and prayer
not from a position of power and strength,
but from the broken edges of our lives,
from the broken edges of the world and the church.
We offer our prayers of confession,
trusting in the One who is reconciling all things.

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 the world suffers because of our sin.
We use power against others for our own benefit.
We misuse the natural resources of the earth
in carelessness and greed.
By our habits and apathies,
others are subjected to desolation, even despair.
Forgive us for making enemies and exiles
of those you call us to love and serve.
Forgive us for laying waste to the landscape of creation.
Forgive us for being complicit in causing others to grieve
and to wander without rest.
We wait on you, O God.
We hope in you.
You alone can restore all things, even us.
We pray in Christ's name. 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.*

God, in Christ Jesus,
grants us grace, mercy, and peace.
Let us hold to the sound teaching of the faith:
that God has the power to save us
and has given us grace through all the ages.
**We receive the treasure of faith entrusted to us,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.
Thanks be to God!**

Children's Ministry:

Prayer/Blessing

Hymn: Each Blade of Grass

MV37

OneLicense #A-740237

1. Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.
Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.
2. Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry out-stretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.

3. Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.
Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.

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.*

Holy God, through Christ Jesus
you bring the light of the gospel
into our lives as grace revealed.
Help us to guard this treasure
and to share it with others, too,
so that the faith that has lived in our ancestors
and now lives in us
may come to life in every new generation.
We pray with the help of the Holy Spirit
who lives in us. **Amen.**

Scripture: Lamentations 3:19-26

Great is God's faithfulness

I remember my woes and wanderings—
the wormwood and the gall.
Those memories are so clear to me,
and they fill me with despair.
Yet it is because I remember all this
that I have hope.

YHWH's favour is not exhausted,
nor has God's compassion failed.
They rise up anew each morning,
do great is God's faithfulness.
"YHWH is all I have," I cry.
"So I will wait in patience."

The Most High is good to those who hope in God,
to all who seek God's presence.
It is good to wait patiently
for YHWH to set us free.

Scripture: Luke 17:5-10 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

Faith as a mustard seed; we've done as we ought

Jesus said to the disciples, "Stumbling blocks will inevitably arise,
but woe to those through whom stumbling blocks come!
Those people would be better off thrown into the sea
with millstones around their necks,

than to make one of these little ones stumble.

“Be on your guard.

If your sisters or brothers do wrong, correct them;
if they repent, forgive them.

If they sin against you seven times a day,
and seven times a day turn back to you
saying, ‘I’m sorry,’ forgive them.

The apostles said to Jesus, “Increase our faith!”

Jesus Answered, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree,
‘Uproot yourself and plant yourself in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

“If one of you had hired help plowing a field or herding sheep, and they came in from the fields,
would you say to them, ‘Come and sit at my table?’ Wouldn’t you say instead, ‘Prepare my supper.
Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink afterward’? Would
you be grateful to the workers who were just doing their job? It’s the same with you who hear me.
When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say, ‘We are simple workers. We have
done no more than our duty.’”

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

God of our salvation,

we thank you for the gift of faith.

We thank you for all those who have taught us the good news.

Kindle in us always this gift, this good treasure,
that we may live the life to which you have called us,
according to your purpose and grace.

We pray in the name of the one
who abolished death
and brought life to light
through the gospel,
our Savior Christ Jesus. **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 Less is More



When I lived in my own house and before I was in seminary and had very little spare time, I had a vegetable garden. It was a very peaceful and meditative place to be, except when little children had the enthusiasm to pull weeds like I did, but lacked the discernment to tell what was a weed and what was a vegetable plant.

One of the challenges I had with the garden was to thin the plants. I would carefully plant seeds the prescribed depth and the prescribed distance apart, and the rejoice when so many of them sprouted and started to grow. But then I was advised, I needed to thin them, to only grow so many so they could grow unimpeded, big and strong. My approach was to have them **all** grow, because, I reasoned, you could never tell whether they would all survive, whether there would be enough.

In our gospel reading for today the disciples ask Jesus for more faith. Jesus has been reminding the disciples that there will be stumbling blocks in their way, it is inevitable. There will be those who wrong the disciples. The disciples should forgive them, even if they sin against the disciples seven times a day—if they say “I’m sorry,” the disciples should forgive them.

Understandably, the disciples wonder if they will be able to forgive like that. Can you imagine? Every day seven times, for perhaps the same offence? And when Jesus says seven times, what he really means is EVERY time. I don’t know about you, but that would take a lot of good will!

The disciples very reasonably ask Jesus for more faith: “Help us to be able to do this thing you need done, because we are pretty sure it’s going to be difficult, if not impossible. We ask for faith to believe your words and to follow your instructions.”

But Jesus says, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed” that would be more than enough, you’d be able to do superhuman things. All that’s needed is this much, really this little faith.

It’s like being told I don’t need all those squash plants and all those bean plants. We so often feel like **more** would be better, when really, more is not necessary and sometimes downright unhelpful.

Perhaps what Jesus is saying is that faith is faith, it's not about the quantity, it's about believing that our faith is enough, that we are enough. We might look at the problems of the world and question how we are to begin to address them, to respond, to make things right—it's easy to think we are responsible for “fixing” climate change, poverty, war, conflict and violence, economic hardship, natural disasters, Indigenous—non-Indigenous relations and the list goes on.

Just like Jesus tells the apostles who ask for more faith, “When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say, ‘We are simple workers. We have done no more than our duty.’” We are simple workers. I bristled at that a bit, simple workers, hired help, however you choose to name it, we might feel like that is a bit insulting, that that is all Jesus sees us to be. But the truth of the matter is that we **are** human—gloriously, merely, beautifully, simply, at the base, human. The Good News is that we do not need to be more. Because we never do any of this: forgiving, working, repairing, growing, reaping, alone. We have faith in God. It is not a matter of **how much** faith we have, it's simply a matter of having faith, and living and moving and having our being in that faith of Jesus Christ, and through him, God. Without God we can't and without us God won't. So we work together to bring about the kin-dom of God.

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

Mission Story



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Before us is a world in great need, waiting in hope.
We are a people holding treasure meant to be given away:

the good news of Christ;
resources of time, talents, and money.
If we are to participate in God's steadfast love and mercy,
we must give sacrificially to the needs of God's people.

Offering Hymn: We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky (v.1) **MV143** OneLicense #A-740237

We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
for we are part of all that is
within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life
in ev'ry earthly nation.

Offering Prayer (in unison) *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 44, p. 47. Copyright 2022.*

**Loving God,
take what we have to offer:
our money, our time, our talents,
and no matter how small
we might feel these gifts to be,
may they become part
of the overall goodness
of humanity's offering.
And may this vast pool of human resources
be channelled by your Spirit's guidance,
and so change our world for good.
Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

- Happy Birthday
 - Bruce Oldfield celebrates 97 years on Sunday October 2nd
 - Bruce Lloyd celebrates on October 3rd
- Happy Anniversary
 - Edith and Dennis Hons celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary September 30th

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

The celebration of communion
is always a festival of friends,
a pulling together of our loves and our hopes,
our moments of agony and our glimpses of victory.
It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared,
that we can most fully be ourselves
and see others for who they truly are:

sons and daughters of the living God.
Here the common things of life—
bread and wine,
memories and dreams—
become holy, touched by God.
Here that which is earthly becomes divine,
and that which is human
becomes more than it has ever dreamed.

Hymn: When We Gather at the Table MV198 OneLicense #A-740237

1. When we gather at the table,
wine is poured and bread is broken.
Then love claims us, offering healing,
we hear welcome, gently spoken.
2. Jesus offers our thanksgiving,
blessing God for life we're given.
From the earth comes grain to feed us,
watered by the rains of heaven.
3. Word of promise claims attention,
earth renewed by God's designing.
All the creatures join in praises—
God's intended wholeness finding.
4. Come, invited, now draw nearer,
join this holy celebration.
Here be strengthened, called to justice,
living now God's new creation.
5. Christ, your coming and your hosting
gives us place at widening table
now embracing world and neighbour,
Spirit strong, by love enabled.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *adapted from a prayer by Thom M. Shuman, **Lectionary Liturgies: World Communion Sunday liturgy for October 2, 2022** <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

May God be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the One who cradles our hearts in loving hands.

People of God, let us give thanks to the God who sets a Table for us.

We praise the Lord our God who welcomes us with open arms.

How lonely was chaos, Gardener of the Universe,

...

Therefore we join our voices,
as we sing of your mercies

made fresh in every moment

Sung: (tune: Bunesan 5.5.5.4D)

**God of Creation, Lord of all beauty,
All creatures join in singing your love;
Holy Compassion, Joy of our mornings,
Fill us with grace which comes from above.**

You alone are holy, heart Speaker,

...

As we remember his grace and love,
as we dare not forget his sacrifice for us,
we sing of that mystery we call faith:

Sung:

**Christ of the outcast, Comfort of mourners,
Neighbor to strangers, Love without end;
Bearer of burdens, Grace ever with us,
Blessing our children, Brother and Friend.**

On the night before Jesus was taken away to his death,

...

God in Community, Holy in One,
all honor and glory are yours,
as we sing our praises through all eternity:

Sung:

**Spirit of kindness, Breath of forgiveness,
Faithful Companion, just as Christ said;
God's little children gathered together,
Drink of salvation, feast on your Bread.**

The 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.**

Preparation

As we come to this table,
we are reminded that this is not the table
of this community of faith;
nor is it the table of The United Church of Canada,
or any particular denomination.
This is the table of Jesus Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God.
We come to this table, and participate in this meal,
not because anything we have done entitles us to be here,
not because somehow we have earned a place;
this is not the table of the perfect,
but the table of the broken.
All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith
and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour, are welcome here.

Breaking and Distribution of the Elements

As we join together as community
and around this table
may we know that this is:
 the body of Christ broken for us;
 the blood of Christ shed for us.

May they nourish our bodies for the journey ahead
and quench our thirst for peace and justice.
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are now ready.

Jesus Christ - bread for the journey.
Jesus Christ - the wine of arrival.

Prayer After Communion *Elaine Bidgood Sveet, Gathering: Pentecost 2 2022, p.43. Used with permission.*

**God of field and fruit, of bread and wine,
we give thanks for all we have received at this communion table.
Now that we are united with you, unite us better with one another.
Lead us to heal divisions,
to welcome everyone,
and to treat all as beloved family.
Send us out to care for creation and one another,
as we follow in the redeeming Way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory **VU686**

1 God of grace and God of glory,
 on your people pour your power;
 now fulfil your church's story;
 bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the facing of this hour.

- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
 scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
 fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 free our hearts to work and praise.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the living of these days.
- 3 Cure your children's warring madness,
 bend our pride to your control;
 shame our wanton selfish gladness,
 rich in goods and poor in soul.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Set our feet on lofty places,
 gird our lives that they may be
 armoured with all Christlike graces,
 pledged to set all captives free.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 that we fail not them nor thee.

Commissioning and Blessing *Laura J. Turnbull, **Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022**, p.43. Used with permission.*

A simple taste of bread and wine has transformed us.
A short hour of worship has enlivened us.
And so, we go out into the world equipped to live the Good News.

May the incredible love of God grant you joy,
the tender wonder of Jesus Christ fill you with peace,
and the beautiful mirth of the Holy Spirit surround you with delight,
today and every day. Amen.

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.

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®**
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Silent sunrise sanctuary—
a dome of shelter
for the birth of day.
Birds and bugs begin—
an opposite of lullaby
proclaiming life anew.

We wake in wonder—
discerning between dream and daylight
a mystery ends, another begins.
Sunshine scatters shadows—
a heathery view
melting gray morning mist.
Never ceasing, never ending—
God's mercies
new each morning. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®**
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dusk
to dark
to full moon brightness
blue night sky
speckling of stars and planets
white lights
forever patterned
read and known
but you knew them first
and through them
allowed yourself to become known
Thank You
Praise You
and Goodnight.
Amen.