



*Celebrating
176 Years*



September 18, 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	Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Faith Formation & Youth	Naomi Flint
Ministry of Music Team	Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber
Office Administrator	Lynda Rivet
Custodian	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council	Allan Hons
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Office hours	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.
E-Mail	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	709-682-8756, 519-843-3841

Melville United Church
September 18, 2022
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Creation Time 2

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 – September 18, 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 read 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 Photo Directory**: There have been two sessions of photos taken for the directory. There will be another session on **Wednesday, September 21st**. Please contact Lorna for your appointment. Everyone who has their photo in the book gets a free book and an 8" x 10" photo.
- **Covenanting with our new Faith Formation and Youth Leader, Naomi Flint** will happen on **September 25th during the service**. Please plan to attend!
- **Kairos Blanket Exercise – Last Call!** 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.
- **Play at the Wellington County Museum and Archives on Saturday, September 24th at 11:45 in the Aboyne Hall**. This play celebrates the 145th Anniversary of the Wellington County House of Industry and Refuge. Its cast is made up of members of the McGinnis Players, including Cody Rawn and Bob and Joanne Mitchell. Joanne also co-wrote and directed the play with consultant Glenn McGinnis. For more information about the event, go to <https://www.wellington.ca/en/discover/mus-145-anniversary.aspx#The-Poor-House-Event-on-September-24>

- **Rescue Junction will perform at the closing for the season of the Ellis Chapel in Cambridge on Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 2:00pm.** The bluegrass band will play gospel, traditional and contemporary bluegrass music. There will be a free will offering. Ellis Chapel is located at 6705 Ellis Road in Cambridge.
- **Indigenous-Themed Reading List** –Shining Waters Regional Council offered a list of recommended readings on Indigenous history and contemporary relationships (*fiction):
 - 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* by Bob Joseph
 - Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
 - Call Me Indian: From the Trauma of Residential School to Becoming the NHL's First Treaty Indigenous Player* by Fred Sasakamoose
 - **Cottagers and Indians* by Drew Hayden Taylor
 - **Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good
 - Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization* by Ched Myers and Elaine Enns
 - **If I Go Missing* by Brianna Jonnie with Nahanni Shingoose
 - **Indians on Vacation* by Thomas King
 - **Moon of the Crusted Snow* by Waubgeshig Rice
 - The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge* by Alf Dumont
 - The PATH: Communication Strategies for the Reconciliation Era* by Sandi Boucher; may be accessed at <https://sandiboucher.com/product-category/book/>

Youth Books:

- Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*
a downloadable PDF at https://pacificmountain.ca/wordpress2021/wp-content/uploads/child_friendly_calls_to_action_web.pdf
- **Take Us to Your Chief and Other Stories* by Drew Hayden Taylor
- **This Town Sleeps* by Dennis E. Staples

Children's Books:

- Fatty Legs* by Christie Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, artwork by Liz Amini-Holmes
- I Sang You Down from the Stars* by Tasha Spillett-Summer, illustrated by Michaela Goade
- The Orange Shirt Story* by Phyllis Webstad
- Phyllis's Orange Shirt* by Phyllis Webstad
- Treaty Words: For as Long as the Rivers Flow* by Aimee Craft, illustrated by Luke Swinson
- When We Were Alone* by David Alexander Robertson, illustrated by Julie Flett

Video Viewing:

- 8th Fire: Aboriginal Peoples, Canada and the Way Forward* mini series hosted by Wab Kinew
- The Bruce: The Fishing Chiefs* 3 part documentary on the settlement history of Saugeen Peninsula, now called the Bruce Peninsula
- Colonization Road*
- Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts* a film by the Anglican Church of Canada
- Finding Peter Bryce* who wrote and published the 1922 *Story of a National Crime*, documenting the shortcomings of Canada's Residential School System
- Indian Horse* a film adapted from the book by Richard Wagamese
- We Were Children* the profound impact of residential school is conveyed through the eyes of two children forced to face hardship and abuse (for rent from NFB \$2.95)

- 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>
- **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

In Remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBritishMonarchy/videos/1722741898059608>

A poem in memory of Her Majesty The Queen from the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage.

A minute of silence

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBritishMonarchy/videos/5266951800067182>

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 w 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: *Fern Gibbard, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022, p.25. Used with permission.*

We gather here this morning
seeking to ground our lives in your love.
We gather here this morning
knowing that you sustain all life on earth.
We gather here this morning
to praise and worship God, the Creator.

Hymn: Praise with Joy the World's Creator **VU312** **OneLicense #A-740237**

- 1 Praise with joy the world's Creator,
 God of justice, love, and peace,
 source and end of human knowledge,
 God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
 power to rescue and release.
- 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
 frees the captive, finds the lost,
 heals the sick, upsets religion,
 fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
 friend and stranger, guest and host.

3 Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:
foolishness none dare deride.

4 Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Tom Walkling, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022, p.27. Used with permission.*

What are we without you, O God?

**A puff of smoke that dissipates,
a blade of grass amongst millions.**

Who will remember us in a hundred or a thousand years?

**We cast these thoughts aside
when we embrace the fact that you, the Creator of all,
know every hair on our head and love us as your own.**

**You have created the seen and the unseen.
You are within us by the gift of the Holy Spirit.
You are immersed in and surround all things.
We live in a holy place.**

**Continually remind us of the lessons of Christ.
Help us remember that a million years is a second to you
and a billion people are one to you,
and that every creature is precious to you.
Let us hold tightly to the fact
that you love us and all of creation unconditionally and eternally. 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, alt.*

Even though we continually turn away from God,
our God is eager to forgive.
Trusting in the promise of grace,
let us confess our sin.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Richard Bott, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022, p.28. Used with permission.*

God of All, in the beginning, you created.
In the beginning, you created all things.

In the beginning, you looked at everything
and you said, "This is good."

How do you feel about it now?
How do you feel about what we have done,
in our desire to grow, to constantly move forward?
How do you feel about the damage we do—
the damage we can't seem to keep ourselves from doing—
to this small part of your creation?
To the land, the earth, the air, the water—
and all the life it sustains?

Declare your word into our hearts, our minds—our lives—
so that we might feel it,
so that we might live it,
and so that your creation might be good once again. 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.*

Our loving God desires everyone to be saved
and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
Hear the good news!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Ministry of Music: "Balm in Gilead" *traditional spiritual arranged by Ross Anderson played by Colleen Weber*

Children's Ministry: Being Faithful in Small Things

Prayer/Blessing

Hymn: Small Things Count

VU361 CCLI Lic. #1576520, CSPL201561

- 1 Small things count, so Jesus said:
cups of water, crumbs of bread,
small things done because we're kind
count as big things in God's mind.
- 2 Small things make the big things grow:
grains of yeast inside the dough,
puffs that fill a big balloon,
notes that make a happy tune.
- 3 Every hair that's on our head,
every sparrow, Jesus said,
God takes care of, counts and knows,
God loves us from top to toes!

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.*

God of life,
by the power of your Spirit come to us now.
Plow our hearts with your living Word
until we who are broken become fertile with your love,
for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting.
We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. **Amen.**

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-7 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

Offer prayers for those in high positions

First of all, I urge that prayers be offered for everyone—
petitions, intercessions and thanksgivings—
and especially for rulers and those in authority,
so that we may be able to live godly and reverent lives in peace and quiet.
To do this is right, and will please God our Saviour,
who wants everyone to be saved and to reach full knowledge of the truth.
For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humankind—
Christ Jesus, who was one of us,
and who at the proper time sacrificed himself as a ransom and a testimony for all.

Because of this I have been appointed to be a preacher, and apostle, and—
this is the truth, now, I'm not lying—
a faithful and honest teacher to the Gentiles.

Scripture: Luke 16:1-13 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

The parable of the dishonest manager

Jesus said to the disciples,
“There was a wealthy landowner who,
having received reports of a steward mismanaging the property,
summoned the steward and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you?
Give me an account of your service, for it’s about to come to an end.’
The steward thought, ‘What will I do next?
My employer is going to fire me.
I can’t dig ditches. I’m ashamed to go begging.
I have it! Here’s a way to make sure that people will take me into their homes when I’m let go.’

“So the steward called in each of the landowner’s debtors.
The steward said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my employer?’
The debtor replied, ‘A hundred jars of oil.’
The steward said, “take your invoice, sit down quickly and make it fifty.’
To another the steward said, ‘How much do you owe?’
The answer came, ‘A hundred measures of wheat,’
and the steward said, ‘Take your invoice and make it eighty.’

Upon hearing this, the owner gave this devious worker credit for being enterprising!
Why? Because the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

So I tell you; make friends for yourselves through your use of this world's goods,
so that when they fail you, you'll be welcomed into an eternal home.

If you can trust others in little things, you can also trust them in greater,
and anyone unjust in a slight matter will also be unjust in a greater.

If you can't be trusted with [dishonest wealth], who will trust you with true riches?
And if you haven't been trustworthy with someone else's money,
who will give you your own?

"Subordinates can't have two superiors.
Either they'll hate the one and love the other,
or be attentive to the one and despise the other.
You can't worship both God and Money."

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

You hear the cries of your people
for justice and mercy;
you answer our prayers
with the gift of your Son,
who bears our burdens
and sets us free.
Speak your truth to us;
purge and refine us;
that we may love and serve you alone. **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: Wealth or God?



This parable is probably one of the most difficult in all of Jesus' story-telling to understand: "The owner gave the devious worker credit for being enterprising"? "Make friends for yourselves through your use of this world's goods, so that when they fail you, you'll be welcomed into an eternal home"?

What is going on here? Jesus doesn't anywhere else commend someone for being "devious" and "enterprising." This seems miles away from what Jesus usually urges:

- Love your neighbour as yourself;
- many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first;
- render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's;
- for what shall it profit someone if they gain the whole world, and lose their soul?
- And doesn't he say, in this same reading, "you can't worship both God and money"?

It seems inherently inconsistent and just very confusing!

But, perhaps it does speak about our love for money. As Christine Pohl writes in an essay entitled "Profit and Loss," "Jesus does not commend the manager's practices, but rather his insight into the connection between resources and relationships. When we consider our wealth and economic practices—even the means we employ to accomplish good ends—as peripheral to the kingdom, we are ignoring Jesus warning that it is impossible to serve God and mammon [as she names money or wealth]."

In referencing Christine Pohl's interpretation, G. Penny Nixon asserts that to follow this logic, the manager's insight brings into sharp relief our own connections between resources and relationships. What means do we employ to accomplish good ends? What are our motivations behind the relationships we forge..."? Here the manager was seeking to get on the "good side" of the debtors so that he would have someone to turn to when he was out of work. He understood about using what you have to get what you need—in order to be where he wanted to be in the future, how he handled today, counted.

And bad means to a good end isn't just limited to the devious manager. The next verse after today's reading tells us that the Pharisees were listening in to Jesus' story and ridiculing him for his points. Commentator Helen Montgomery Debevoise offers this thought about the Pharisees. They are characterized as "lovers of money." Although "leaders of the chosen people, keepers of the treasures of God they were like the dishonest steward. They had lost their vision of who God had called them to be. They had traded their call to be God's people to become servant of the treasures of the present day. Controlled by wealth, by money, even complacency, they had blended into society and lost their vision."

Debevoise paraphrases Jesus' saying in verse 13, "You can either serve this present age and love its treasures, or you can love God and serve him in this present age. But you cannot do both. One leads to death. The other leads to life." It's a little like Jesus says, be in the world but not of the world.

Lest we be dazzled by the treasures of this present age, we might remember that God offers us treasures of many sorts. Among them is the treasure, the gift, of creation. It is creation that provides the olive trees, the fruit of which is pressed for the oil that the manager is bartering with. It is creation that provides what is necessary for the wheat to grow that the manager commodifies for his own ends. Creation is not just there for the manager or the wealthy lender or the Pharisees to achieve the status and power that they would like. It is God's revelation to us of who God is, and is

entrusted to us for the furtherance of God's kin-dom.



One of the treasures that we have at Melville is the beautiful little garden behind the church. It could just be a flat patch of grass, but instead, it's been lovingly, thoughtfully, faithfully designed. It has a contemplative area with a peace pole for those who would like a space for quiet and reflection, and it also has garden boxes filled with plants that the Garden Committee grows from seedlings and tends and harvests for the foodbank.



This little patch of creation, a gift from God, is being used to do even a little bit for those of our community who are in need. When the shelves of the foodbank offer non-perishable foods, we can bring our offering to provide an alternative to canned and boxed foodstuffs. We can engage in meaningful relationship with the clientele of the foodbank by caring for our patch of creation, co-creating with the seeds we nurture, the fruits we harvest, so that others are cared for. It is a model of the incredible power of God's treasures to bring about not wealth, but well-being, not power but provision.

The choice is ours to make. We are invited to join in the building of the kin-dom by using God's gifts for the good of all. And although we may think of other people with whom we can be in relationship, we may not think of creation, little gardens, groves of olive trees or fields of wheat as that with which we can be in relationship. But as I was thinking about this, viewing our world through a lens of resource vs. relationship, I was reminded of a poem of Mary Oliver with which I would like to leave you:

Little Summer: Poem Touching the Subject of Faith

Every summer
I listen and look
under the sun's brass and even
into the moonlight, but I can't hear

anything, I can't see anything --
not the pale roots digging down, nor the green stalks muscling up,
nor the leaves
deepening their damp pleats,

nor the tassels making,
nor the shucks, nor the cobs.
And still,
every day,

the leafy fields
grow taller and thicker --
green gowns lofting up in the night,
showered with silk.

And so, every summer,
I fail as a witness, seeing nothing --
I am deaf too
to the tick of the leaves,

the tapping of downwardness from the banyan feet --
all of it
happening
beyond any seeable proof, or hearable hum.

And, therefore, let the immeasurable come.
Let the unknowable touch the buckle of my spine.
Let the wind turn in the trees,
and the mystery hidden in the dirt

swing through the air.
How could I look at anything in this world
and tremble, and grip my hands over my heart?
What should I fear?

One morning
in the leafy green ocean
the honeycomb of the corn's beautiful body
is sure to be there.

~ Mary Oliver ~
(*West Wind*)

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

Hymn: Take Time to Be Holy **VU672**

- 1 Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

- 2 Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

- 3 Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.

Joys and Concerns

- Happy Birthday
 - Ann Warren who celebrates today, September 18th
- Condolences
 - Sincere condolences to the family of Mary Woods who passed away Tuesday, September 13th.

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.

Holy One,

you are beyond our imagining, beyond our control, beyond
our comfort.

You will not be bound by our schemes.

Even so we maintain appearances, and we jockey with our neighbors,
even as we make idols from our fears.

But your ways are not our ways.

You are not a god of tidy balance sheets or weekly appointments;
your love is too deep, your claim too pervasive.

You are there when tempers fray and anger erupts.

You are there when anxiety overwhelms and we withdraw.

You are *here* in every bruised heart, every calloused hand, every tangled dream.

Move among us now.

Receive our broken spirits as the offerings we bring this day.

Merciful God, breathe deeply into this room your reconciling love, your holy expectation.

Allow us now to see the faces of those we have harmed, those we have kept at a distance. . . . *[silence]*

Work in us, Lord, until our hearts are softened and we dare to seek our neighbor's good.

Teach us to pray with our hands and our feet and our voices.

We lift to you now all that seems irreconcilable in our families, in our schools and workplaces . . . *[silence]*

in our nation . . . *[silence]*

in your church . . . *[silence]*

in your world. . . . *[silence]*

We pray for those we identify as leaders in every sphere of life. . . . *[silence]*

We pray for those we identify as leaders in every sphere of life

And today we think especially of the late Queen Elizabeth, King Charles, the Royal Family and all who mourn her passing. . . . *[silence]*

We pray for our governmental leaders,

and for all whose decisions weigh heavily on others. . . . *[silence]*

For the poor and needy in our land,

and in every land,

those who are trampled on by the rich,

bought and sold for profit *[silent prayer]*

For families torn apart by violence,

lands laid waste by destruction,

and cities ruined by war *[silent prayer]*

For all those who are beset by illness or grief,

whose hearts are sick,

whose joy is gone *[silent prayer]*

Even so, Lord, give us the courage to name ourselves

as those whose responsibility is great.

Teach us to tend the world you love:

to sow more than we reap,

to heal more than we wound,

to make room for others as you made room for us.

We pray with hearts both eager and reluctant,
trusting that you will meet us—and call to us—
just where we are, in the name of the Christ. **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: Indigenous Communities

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

Jesus teaches us that no one can serve two masters.
We cannot serve both God and wealth.
Let us entrust our treasure to the Lord
who has provided so abundantly for us
with generosity and grace beyond measure.

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) *Carol Frost, **Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022**, p.29. Used with permission.*

**We have shared these gifts
that they may be used
for peace and justice in our world
and for the well-being of all creation.
Guide us, O God,
to keep our focus on the needs of others
and the needs of this planet,
we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

Hymn: Live into Hope

VU699

OneLicense #A-740237

- 1 Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!
- 2 Live into hope the blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.
- 3 Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread,
to hear God's word and thus be fed.
- 4 Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

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

Sisters and brothers,
however dark the night gets—whatever you have squandered—
know that you are held by a love like this:
the Creator who made you still claims you in covenant love;
the Redeemer who died for your sake, lives again by the Word of God;
the Sustainer of all creation, yet breathes courage into your heart.
Go, then, and serve boldly,
for God's desire encompasses the whole of creation.

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

In this moment of stillness
before I dress in the claims of the day,
let me stand bare before you
with questions unanswered. . . .
Fill the silence with your nearness,
that I may hear you speak your word
and live this day for you. 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.*

Source of my life,
this day I was not promised
now is ending.
I thank you for the grace it was,
noticed and unnoticed.
I lay before you all that I saw.
[Let your day replay in memory.]
I trust to you all that I failed to see.
[Let God bring to mind whatever God might.]
In the gift of the gathering darkness
brood over your creation again,
and restore your image in me,
that I might bear both your grief and your joy in the world;
for I pray in the name of Jesus, whose service was love. Amen.