



September 25, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
September 25, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Creation Time 3

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 25, 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.
- **Service of Lament on the Eve of the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation**
Sept. 30 is the National Day for Healing and Reconciliation, a day to reflect on the history of the relationship between Indigenous People and Settlers. Such reflections involve Residential Schools, but also the breaking of the treaties, the violence against Indigenous women and girls, the high level of incarceration of Indigenous persons, and the inequitable financial situations on and off reserves.
On Thurs., Sept. 29, at 7 pm, (on the eve of the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation) St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Fergus is hosting a service of lament. Lament for the pain caused by governments and settlers breaking the treaties, lament at the hurt the land and the people of the land have experienced and continue to experience, lament over unmarked graves and missing children, lament over the harm done by prejudice and injustice.
The service will include readings, prayers, spoken reflections, and silence. It will be about 45 minutes in length.
All are welcome to attend this Service of Lament on the eve of the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation, Sept. 29 at 7 pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Fergus. For more info contact Peter Bush (519-843-3565) or peter.bush@wightman.ca
- **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day are both marked on Friday, September 30th**. National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is a day to consider the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. This public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. Orange Shirt Day is an

Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of “Every Child Matters”. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. **On September 30th, all people are encouraged to wear orange to honour the thousands of residential school survivors.**

- **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.
- **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.

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: *Beth W. Johnston, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022, p.25. Used with permission.*

God's promise of new life for us and for all of creation is clear.

All we want is the old one back again.

God's promise of the renewing of the whole of creation comes.

We want to preserve the advantages we have.

We receive your promise of good news and abundance for all.

**But we worry if it will cost us too much when everyone has enough,
and when all of creation is cared for.**

May we accept the challenge of living into God's care for all creation.

In worship, may we embrace true faith and living the gospel.

Hymn: God of the Sparrow

VU229

OneLicense #A-740237

- 1 God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

- 2 God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

- 3 God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

- 4 God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

- 5 God of the neighbour God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

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

Loving Creator,

we gather here today in awe of all your wonders of this world.

Your grace is endless and touches every corner of this universe.

You are an amazing God.

You nurture our bodies and souls.

You create life and call us back to dust where we came from.

It is in you and through you that we are granted life.

Fill us with your love and guide us to live harmoniously

with one another and with all of your creation on this beautiful planet. Amen.

Call to Reconciliation *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for September 25, 2022 (Pentecost 16/Trinity 15/Proper 21/Ordinary 26 - C) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

In God's presence, our lives are exposed,
our words are shown for their hollowness,
our need is revealed.

Let us confess who we are, as we ask God to embrace us with grace and hope.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for September 25, 2022 (Pentecost 16/Trinity 51/Proper 21/Ordinary 26 - C), alt. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

**We need to confess, God of Abraham and Lazarus,
how often we are not content with the simple gifts and lives you offer.
Tempted by everything,
we can become insensitive to those who have nothing.
Encouraged by the world to accumulate more,
we may miss the chance to gather your goodness and godliness.
Chasing after all which has no value,
we may not have the energy to pursue
the faith, the love, the gentleness you have for us.**

Forgive us, God of Reversals.

**You have sent the One who speaks the words
we need to listen to in order to have life.**

**Help us to remember how you have redeemed us,
and in remembering, may we make that good confession
that Jesus Christ is our risen and rising Saviour, now and forever.**

Words of Assurance *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for September 25, 2022 (Pentecost 16/Trinity 51/Proper 21/Ordinary 26 - C).*

This is the good news that comes from God:

I will hear your prayers,

I will answer with hope and peace,

I will deliver you from your sins.

**God has covered us with grace;
under God's hope we will find shelter.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "Stand by Me" by Tom Kendzia sung by the Melville Choir accompanied by Colleen Weber

Children's Ministry: Covenanting with Leader of Youth Faith Formation

Scripture

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians offers these thoughts on service:

There are different gifts,

but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving,

but it is the same God who is served.

God works through different people in different ways,

but it is the same God who achieves

holy purposes through them all.

The Spirit gives each one gifts,

to use for the common good.

Presentation of Leader of Youth Faith Formation

Statement of Purpose

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

each of us is called by God to ministry,

and called to offer gifts as we are able.

Today we recognize Naomi Flint

who has heard God's call to serve as Leader of Youth Faith Formation.

Teaching and supporting the work of teaching,

is a ministry of Christ among us.

Naomi, called to this ministry, needs our prayers and faithful support.

Covenant Questions and Promises

to Leader of Youth Faith Formation

Naomi, you have heard God's call.

Will you seek to develop your gifts for teaching,

and for sharing the Christian faith,

for learning and growing with those you serve?

Will you love and care for the children and youth in your groups?

Will you honour your commitment of time and talent?

Will you also take seriously your role as a learner,
studying the scriptures and teachings of our faith?

Yes, I will.

**I have recognized a need in this congregation,
and feel called by God to respond.**

**I will lead and teach the children and youth,
Learning and growing with them—**

**trusting in the Spirit and in God's promises
to support and guide me**

**cherishing the faith and spiritual well-being
of our students,**

**relying upon this congregation
to uphold us in this ministry.**

to students and participants

Children and youth,
as disciples of Jesus,
will you do your best to learn and grow together?
Will you respect and help Naomi as she leads and teaches you?
Will you do your part
to help make this church
a place where all can learn and grow?
Yes, we will.

Congregational Pledge

**We remember the promise we make at baptism
to provide Christian nurture and example for all.
We celebrate the response of Naomi to God's call.
We will be partners with her
in the ministry of Jesus Christ.
We will pray for her,
and for the youth faith formation ministry of our congregation.
We pledge to be learners with her,
studying the scriptures and the faith of our church.
United in the Spirit, we are the Body of Christ.**

Prayer

Loving God, in Christ you show us
the way of truth, grace, justice, and love.
Guide us in that way.
Knowing that you are in our midst,
we pray for Naomi who serves as Youth Faith Formation Leader.
Send your Spirit to nurture her
and all who are entrusted to her care.
May we all be teachers and learners together.
Bless the ministry of this congregation
as we pledge our support
for the youth faith formation of your church in this place.
Amen.

Declaration

As people of Melville United Church,
Naomi, we rejoice in your gifts,
and recognize and affirm
your ministry as youth leader and teacher in our midst.
Thanks be to God!

The congregation may show approval and support by applause or other appropriate response.

Hymn: Like a River of Tears

MV98

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1. Like a river of tears your love pours upon us;
like a sunshine of blessing your grace will sustain us;
like a star-studded sky your spirit shines o'er us,
Renewing our spirits with courage and faith.
2. Like a bird in free flight by windows around us;
like a wind in the forest that breathes life among us;
like a phoenix that's rising from ashes around us,
renewing our spirits with vision and grace.
3. Like a pillar of cloud you promise to guide us;
like a bright fiery bush you come to speak to us;
like a calm cooling breeze your spirit breathes in us,
renewing our spirits with loving embrace.
4. Like a lover's caress your spirit revives us;
like a song of the soul you come to be with us;
like a prayer of the heart you heal and restore us,
renewing our spirits, the future to face.

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.*

Nurturing God,
you give life to all things
and long to satisfy the needs of your children
in their desire for healing and wholeness.
Send your Spirit upon us this day,
that as we hear your word we may meet Jesus,
the one in whom all our hungers are fed. **Amen.**

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-19 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

The love of money; fight the good fight

There is, of course, great benefit in religion,
but only for those who are content with what they have.

We brought nothing into the world,
nor have we the power to take anything out.
If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need.
Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap.
They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires
which draw us down to ruin and destruction.
The love of money is the root of all evil.
Some people, in their passion for it,
have strayed from the faith
and have come to grief amid great pain.

But you are to flee from these things.
As one dedicated to God,

strive to be a person of integrity and piety,
filled with faith and love, patience and gentleness.
Run the great race of faith.
Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when,
in the presence of many witnesses,
you made your good profession of faith.

Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus,
who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate,
I charge you to keep God's command without fault or reproach
until our Saviour Jesus Christ appears.

This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time.
God alone is the Sovereign over all,
the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers,
who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light,
who no human being has every seen or can see.
To God be the honour and the everlasting kin-dom! Amen.

Warn those who are blessed with this world's good
not to look down on other people.
They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain.
Instead, they are to put their hope in God,
who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment.
Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works.
They are to be generous and willing to share.
In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future,
and guarantee the only life that is real.

Scripture: Luke 16:19-31 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

The rich man and Lazarus

Once there was a rich person who dressed in purple and linen
and feasted splendidly every day.
At the gate of this person's estate lay a beggar name Lazarus,
who was covered with sores.
Lazarus long to eat the scraps that fell from the rich person's table
and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores.
One day poor Lazarus died
and was carried by the angels to the arms of Sarah and Abraham.
The rich person likewise died and was buried.
In Hades, in torment, the rich person looked up
and saw Sarah and Abraham in the distance,
and Lazarus resting in their company.

"Sarah and Abraham,' the rich person cried, 'have pity on me!
Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue,
for I am tortured by these flames!
But they said, "My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime,

while Lazarus was in misery.
Now Lazarus has found consolation here,
and you have found torment.
But that's not all.
Between you and us there is a fixed chasm,
so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so,
nor can anyone cross from your side to us.'

"The rich person said, 'I beg you, then,
to send Lazarus to my own house where I have five siblings.
Let Lazarus be a warning to them,
so that they may not end in this place of torment.'
But Sarah and Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets.
Let your siblings hear them.'
'Please, I beg you,' the rich person said,
'if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.'
'If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,' Sarah and Abraham replied,
'they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!'"

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..

Eternal God,
help us to measure our time,
in faithful discipleship,
that your will be done,
your kingdom come,
for life everlasting,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **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: Food for Thought



I like the cover of the bulletin very much. I love the idea of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. I love the idea of writing it on the beach, somewhere in nature that can be considerably impacted by whether we do indeed Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Another photo added Repeat on the bottom of the 3 Rs with an

arrow back up to the top—another great message!

People at my house will tell you that I'm the one who insists on separating the waste between what is garbage and what is recycling. I'm the one who insists on washing the Ziplock bags, and closely monitors what gets thrown out of the fridge to see if it's really necessary.

But in spite of all of that, I just couldn't get the reflection I hoped to write to work. I just couldn't get the ideas to come together. And I certainly didn't want to waste all these copies of the bulletin! Which means you'll have to pardon me for a bulletin cover that seems meant for a different reflection.

So having said that, I do want to talk about Lazarus and the rich person.

This scripture might be considered very comforting or very challenging depending on who we identify with. If we identify with Lazarus, how good to have the prospect of heaven after a difficult life; however, if we identify with the rich person, the future looks very grim.

But commentators remind us that this is not principally a parable about the next life. It is rather a challenge by Jesus to consider how we live God's ways in **this** life.

The rich person, whose name we never learn, dines sumptuously every day. At the gate of this person's estate there lies a beggar named Lazarus, who is covered with sores. This beggar is not just unwell and seemingly homeless, but is hungry, and probably thirsty. He would gladly take the scraps, the crumbs, that fell from the rich person's table, but alas, not even these were given to him. The rich person seems oblivious to the beggar's plight, and even his existence. But when both have died and the rich person ends up in torment in Hades, that one sees Lazarus in the embrace of Sarah and Abraham. The rich person calls to Sarah and Abraham, and asks for the beggar by name to come and give him relief from his torment. So the beggar is known to the rich person, not just by sight, but by name, and yet the rich one has never done anything to care for Lazarus, even to bring leftovers from the daily fabulous feasts to the gate from Lazarus to eat. The rich person disproves his supposed ignorance with his own request.

Jesus doesn't give us any direct instruction about these two people, but his silence invites us to consider them. One who is starving and covered in sores, the other who is dressed in very expensive purple cloth, including linen, and enjoys whatever food they want.

We might be tempted to envy the rich person for their status and the trappings that go with it. But a clue as to what Jesus thinks of this one is that they are not named, whereas the beggar is. Jesus seems to be implying, as he has said directly elsewhere, that the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

If Jesus is telling this parable, it is because he wants his listeners to hear something from it, and to act on what they have heard. There are various lessons that we could take from it, but one that strikes me today is about the rich person's meals—his fabulous feasts each day while Lazarus subsists on the bare minimum.

In the news this past week it was reported that the cost of food has increased 11% over the past year. That may not sound like an extreme situation, but when that is combined with the increased cost of shelter, and the volatility in gas prices in the past six or seven months, and it has a big impact

for those living close to the margins. In addition, the news noted that the clientele at foodbanks has increased 170% since the start of the pandemic. Many people are accessing the foodbank for the first time in their lives.

There are others, who need restaurant size fridges to contain all the food that they buy, and/or put a second fridge in the basement or the garage. And it is tempting to buy food that is easy to prepare, requiring minimal effort in the midst of our busy lives. The difficulty with that food is that it comes with lots of packaging, has some or lots of additives whose names we can't pronounce, and doesn't have the same nutritional value as what we make from scratch.

So some with so much, others with not enough, and this scripture ringing in our ears.

It is reasonable to ask where is God in this scripture? What is God doing? There has been judgment that has happened, and it is God's place to do that, but is that all? I think through Jesus' telling of this parable, there is also the call to live more equitably, to be thoughtful about what we do with food, to consider the other as we sit down to eat, but also as we buy our groceries and prepare our food. Jesus offers his listeners a cautionary tale to instruct them about their own decisions. Taste and convenience must be balanced against need, and I might add, care for creation.

I'm not proposing to instruct on Home Economics, especially to people who may have been cooking for more years than I have been alive. But I do invite us to consider the choices we make. The news makes us painfully aware of those who are struggling to make ends meet. And we each have to consider our own situation, but one of Jesus' principle ideas is to care particularly about the poor and marginalized. In living out our faith, we are called to care for the "least of these" for in so doing, we are caring for Jesus himself.

I invite us to live intentionally about how we obtain, prepare and consume food in the same way we live intentionally about reading scripture, or praying, or spending some quiet time with God, or coming to church. It is as much a spiritual practice as any of these others. We might consider the amount of packaging of the food we buy, and whether it is fair trade and organic so we can help to ensure more than a subsistent living for the farmers who grew it, or a subsistent experience for the creation that created the opportunity, and must bear the consequences of our choices. We might ensure that when we go grocery shopping, we buy local as much as possible, and perhaps not avail of some of the produce that is out of season and has come to us from the other side of the world.

My housemate, Amanda, looked in the fridge the other day, thinking about what to have for supper, and knowing that grocery shopping was not happening until the weekend. The fridge looked fairly full, but there was nothing in enough quantities for a whole supper for nine people. But what there was, was a few chicken breasts and peas left over from the other night, and a lone cob of corn, one container of the pea soup made for a sick friend, a single potato and some rice, and with the addition of onions, garlic, veggies and some spices, she created a wonderful chicken soup, well stew really, that filled and sustained us for more than one meal.

It would have been easy to just leave the bits and pieces in the fridge until they were no longer fit to eat, and have a box of some convenience food for supper. But with some intentionality, and care for creation, Amanda was able to do better. And that may mean little to the hungry person, but it sets an example for the young people in our house of how to wisely prepare and consume food. It also means that money wasn't wasted, and more money spent on convenience food. The money that was saved may be money that can be used to support the local food bank to help care for those

many who find themselves at its doors.

Jesus calls us to live with care for others, not chastising us for the wealth we have, but expecting us to live responsibly with it, to use what gifts we are given to draw the whole of creation nearer to the kingdom that God intends. That, I believe, is the message of this parable, a parable that Jesus offers as teaching for us all, through God's grace.

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

Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be

VU506

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Joys and Concerns

- Happy Birthday
 - Bruce Oldfield celebrates 97 years on Sunday October 2nd
 - Bruce Lloyd celebrates on October 3rd

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: Answer us, O Lord, when we call on you;

Response: **show us your salvation.**

Hear our prayer, O Lord,
our refuge and fortress,
our God, in whom we trust:

Answer us, O Lord, when we call on you;

show us your salvation.

For those who are under siege
from war or illness or any adversity—
give them faith and hope
for the future you are preparing.

Answer us, O Lord, when we call on you;

show us your salvation.

For those who live in fear
of terror in the night
or destruction in the day—
be with them in trouble
and satisfy them with long life.

Answer us, O Lord, when we call on you;

show us your salvation.

For those who live in comfort and ease,
satisfied with feasting, drunk with power,
distracted in their days with idle pastimes—
show them the error of their ways
and the end that is coming if they do not repent.

Answer us, O Lord, when we call on you;

show us your salvation.

For those who are hungry or oppressed,
those in prison, or burdened by heavy labor,
for the orphan, the widow, and the immigrant—
give them food and freedom, justice and joy,
watch over them and show them your welcome.

Answer us, O Lord, when we call on you;

show us your salvation.

Merciful God, we offer you these prayers
in the confidence that you alone
have the grace to receive us
and the power to deliver us;
through Jesus Christ,
who has risen from the dead. **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: Adopt-a-Family Angel Program *Jane*

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.*

We bring nothing into this world,
and when we depart from this life
we will take nothing out of it.
All that we have is a gift from God;
therefore let us offer our lives to this generous God.

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.*

**Jesus, you have called across the ages in a strong yet tender voice,
asking us to bless and care for any who are in need.
We bring these gifts of time, talent, and money before you
so they may be a blessing for a hurting world.
May they find the shadowed corners within all creation
and, with their love, shine light and hope where most needed. Amen.**

Hymn: May the God of Hope Go with Us Every Day **VU424** OneLicense #A-740237

- 1 May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.
- 2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,

freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R

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.*

Pursue righteousness, godliness,
faith, love,
endurance, gentleness.
Take hold of the eternal life
to which you were called.

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.

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May the sovereign God bless you,
may the Christ of mercy keep you,
and the Holy Spirit sustain you,
in this life and the life to come.

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.*

My God,
out of the darkness
that stalks the night
you bring the light of morning.
Let my love for you
not waste at noonday,
but burn until evening again. 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.*

My God, Most High,
day is done.
I rest in your shelter,
abide in your shadow,
trust in you. Amen.