



October 23, 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

Youth Faith Formation

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
October 23, 2022
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Marking Melville United Church's 177th Anniversary

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 23, 2022 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services. 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 or not as is comfortable for you.

For those who are joining us online we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

We gather in this season after Pentecost, on this Anniversary Sunday, to remember the cloud of saints and all the people who have devoted so much of their lives to God's mission and work in this community, and hopefully in the process together have come to know their Christ and God better and deepen their faith. We celebrate 177 years of work and witness, celebrating God's presence and deep, abiding love.

Announcements

- **Melville's Anniversary celebration will continue after the service** – there will be a lunch following the service in the Chapel, with food served in the hall and the Parlour available for overflow
- **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.
- **Photo Directory – Council members please plan to attend this Sunday, October 23rd and stay in the sanctuary after the service to have the photo taken for the directory.** If anyone has random photos of events that have gone on at Melville in the last 5 years, please see Lorna about them, as we do have a page or two in the photo directory for those. Thank You!
- **2022 Christmas Gift Program** – Please consider donating to support needy children, families and independent youth in our community. We will collect monetary donations for the Social Justice & Outreach committee buy gift cards as requested so that the family can buy necessities and a wish or two for their family members for Christmas. You can donate money by dropping it off at the church, emailing secretary@melvilleunited.com with an e-transfer or use one of the specially labelled envelopes that will be available until November 6th. **All donations must be received by November 7th.**
- 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.

- **Gifts with Vision: A Giving Catalogue from The United Church of Canada**
 - Give meaningful gifts that make a difference with [Gifts with Vision \(opens in a new tab\)](#)! Each year's gift catalogue gives a glimpse of the breadth of our Mission & Service ministries and programs.
 - *Gifts with Vision* has gift ideas to suit every interest, budget, and person. It's a great way to celebrate special occasions and honour loved ones!
 - The gift catalogue is updated online regularly, and is fully refreshed every fall. It is also distributed in print with *Broadview* magazine, and mailed to each pastoral charge.
 - **To order gifts, be inspired, or learn more, visit [GiftsWithVision.ca \(opens in a new tab\)](#) today!**

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 4, 1793 and the Haldimand Treaty, 1784—that outline 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: *Gord Dunbar, **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 Christ candle is lit. The light flickers and flames, vulnerable and small.

We come seeking the light of Christ, yet we too often falter on the path. We come stumbling and tripping, reaching out for a steady grip. As we reach, we touch one another, discovering strength in one another.

The Spirit whispers to our hearts, to our longing, to our seeking, encouraging, inspiring, daring, uniting, and equipping.

The Christ candle is lit and our spirits respond with similar tiny flickers. Reaching out for signposts to guide us, we gain a perspective of all those flickers among us, the light of Christ in our midst.

Call to Worship: *Sheryl Spencer, this content is part of **GatheringWorship.ca**. Used with permission.*

On this Anniversary Sunday,

with gratitude for the vision of all those who have come before and gratitude for the vision that will lead us into tomorrow and the years ahead,

we come to this place of worship with heads bowed and hearts open.

As God's Spirit has touched the spirits of so many of our forebears in the faith,
may God's Spirit touch our spirits this day.

Come, Holy Spirit, come with your call and vision for this community of faith.

Hymn: God Is Here

VU320 OneLicense #A-740237

- 1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.
- 3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.
- 4 God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Susan Silverthorne, this content is part of **GatheringWorship.ca**. Used with permission.*

Holy One, you breathe hope into our midst. You remind us that a church is not a building, but that God Space can be found anywhere that your people gather to worship and to share the Good News.

You sweep over and within us to grant us the ability to sift through the stories in your word, giving us direction for ways in which we can be a loving presence within this community and this world.

We thank you for those times in which your presence has been strongly felt within this community of faith. These moments give us powerful reminders that you are always with us, an unfailing presence, patiently waiting for us to turn to you and generously encouraging us in your way. We are not alone; thanks be to God. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "Rockin' the Boat (Come Follow Me)" *words and music by Jean Anne Shafferman sung by the Melville Men's Chorus accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling*

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

Longing for rescue from the weight of our failures,
let us confess our sin to God who hears our pleas
and waits in mercy to forgive.

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.*

**No words can express the depth of our need
or reveal the extent of our shortcomings.
But you know us completely, O God.
When deeds of injustice overwhelm us,
you forgive our wrongdoing.
You rescue us from evil
and clothe us with love.
Humbly, we thank you;
for no words can express our gratitude
for the gift of your salvation. Amen.**

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

Sisters and brothers,
the news is so good we can scarcely believe it:
God does not hold our sin against us
but pours out abundant grace.
Give thanks to God
and by the Spirit's power
share the gospel far and near:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Children's Ministry: All Sinners, All Beloved of God

To give the tax-collector's prayer a *physical reminder*, put each truth in one hand then fold the hands together in prayer. Either use your own hands or invite listeners to use their hands. In either case, hold one hand palm cupped up to hold the truth that God loves us. Briefly describe God's creation of each one of us with our special gifts and talents. Keep that cupped hand in place while raising the other hand up in the same position to hold the truth that we are each one of us sinners. Move your hands up and down in relationship to each other to note that on some days we feel more loved and lovable and on other days we feel more sinful. Then fold the hands together as if in prayer. Jesus tells his listeners to be honest with God. When we come to God honestly admitting our sins and trusting that God loves and forgives us, we are OK with God – and also OK with ourselves and the people around us.

Instruct people to *look at the other people all around them in the sanctuary* - the people in their families, their friends, the people they see every Sunday but who aren't friends, and the people they do not know at all. Then tell them that every one of those people is a sinner. Each one says and does things that hurt others, themselves and God. Sometimes they mean to do those things. Other times the mean words and deeds just pop out. Even they are surprised at what they have done. Then direct everyone to look again. Point out that God loves every one of the people in the room. God made them and knows them, even the awful things they do, and God loves them. When we are honest with each other and with God about both the awful things we do and God's love for each one of us, things work out OK.

Prayer/Blessing

Hymn: Come, Children, Join to Sing VU345

- 1 Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!
Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!
Let all with heart and voice,
saved by God's gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

- 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!
Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!
Christ calls his people friends,
the helpless he defends,
a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

- 3 Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!
The whole creation o'er
let all God's love adore,
singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

Prayer of Illumination *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®]
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Pour out upon us your Spirit, O God,
that we might hear your word
so that your wisdom will draw us closer to you.
Through Christ, the Living Word, we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture: Joel 2:23-32 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

Abundant rain, full threshing floors

Rejoice, Children of Zion! Rejoice!
Be glad in YHWH your God,
who send you rain—
the autumn and spring rains as of old—
and a new spring crop.
The threshing floors will be heaped with grain,
the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.
I will repay you
for the years that were eaten away
by the locust swarm,
the winged locust,
the scavenger locust,
and the bark-stripping locust—
my great army, which I sent against you.
You will eat your fill and be satisfied,
and praise the name of YHWH your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you!
My people we never again be put to shame!
you will know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, YHWH, am your God,
and there is no other.
My people will never again be put to shame!

After that, I will pour out my Spirit
on all humankind.
Your daughters and sons will prophesy,
your elders will have prophetic dreams,
and your young people will see visions.
I those days, I will pour out my Spirit
even on those in servitude,
women and men alike.

I will show signs in the heavens and on the earth,
blood and fire and pillars of smoke—
the sun will be turned to darkness,
and the moon to blood—
at the coming of the great and terrible Day of YHWH.
But everyone who calls on the name of YHWH
will be rescued.

For there will be a remnant on Mount Zion
and in Jerusalem—this is YHWH’s promise.
Anyone who invokes the name of YHWH
will be among that remnant.

Ministry of Music: “What a Day That Will Be” by Jim Hill sung by the Melville Men’s Chorus
accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling

Scripture: Luke 18:9-14 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

The Pharisee and the tax collector go to pray

Jesus spoke this parable
addressed to those who believed in their own self-righteousness
while holding everyone else in contempt:
“Two people went up to the Temple to pray;
one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector.
The Pharisee stood and prayed like this:
‘I give you thanks, O God, that I’m not like others—
greedy, crooked, adulterous—or even like this tax collector.
I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on everything I earn.’

“The other one, however, kept a distance,
not even daring to look up to heaven.
In real humility, all the tax collector said was,
O god, be merciful to me, a sinner.’
Believe me, the tax collector went home from the Temple right with God,
while the Pharisee didn’t.
For those who exalt themselves will be humbled,
while those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

Good and gracious God,
you promise to pour out your Spirit upon us;
you are the hope of the world.
Give us strength, that we might serve you;
make us humble, that we might live for your glory alone.
In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share
find a response that is worthy of you,
most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.
David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

Reflection: The Blessings of Faith, the Blessings of Memory

I looked through the Historic Gallery on our website this week, and read the remembrances of many people: the Toshes, the Martins, the Rainfords, the Dickies, the Zirks, the Anticknaps, Ruth Spoule, Lorna Bevcar and many more. I was struck by the variety of people, activities, light-hearted moments, times of dedicated work, and the faithfulness that came up.

I think of my own memories of Melville: the warm welcome I received when I came first as a candidate for ministry to do pulpit supply; and again more recently when I joined in ministry with you. Right from the start people were supportive, helpful and kind-hearted. It was a joy to be asked to provide pulpit supply when I was a student. People have engaged with me around the message of the service and have on occasion challenged me with very helpful feedback. It has been a true blessing to be asked to be part of your community of faith.

And while I have memories of joining in worship with you, there are a couple of people who have memories of worshipping and working together, in this building and beyond, and I think you will be inspired by the reminiscences they have to share – Phil Brown and Graeme Chalmers.

...

Thank you to Phil and to Graeme for sharing from their memories of this community of faith, Melville United Church. As the prophet Joel foretold, God has indeed poured out God's Spirit on humankind in this place. People have given so much of themselves to Christian witness at and through Melville and have modelled Christian fellowship for those within and beyond the church.

There has been an authentic and humble sharing of self, of offering to God and one another the fallible and imperfect but heart-felt faith of true disciples, and in the process have, I believe, drawn into deeper relationship with one another and especially the One who gives us life, who restores life and empowers life.

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

Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus VU664

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
 all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 everything to God in prayer!
 O what peace we often forfeit,
 O what needless pain we bear,
 all because we do not carry
 everything to God in prayer.**
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged;
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Can we find a friend so faithful,**

who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.

Joys and Concerns

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®*
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Call: God of mercy

Response: **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, saying:

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the church in every place,
that wherever people gather in your name,
you enable us to listen to each other with open hearts.

Give your people unity, O God;
replace pride with reconciliation.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for musicians and artists,
Kids Church and youth leaders and participants,
ushers, greeters, church council members,
our office manager, cooks and cleaners,
those who serve at the regional and denominational levels of our church,
we think of Mark Laird our WOW President
and Carmen Lansdowne our United Church of Canada Moderator
and for all who serve your people.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Muslims and Jews, Hindus and Buddhists,
and people of indigenous religions everywhere,
that their paths may lead—with ours—
to greater understanding of the goodness of faith
in its many languages and forms.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for this amazing Earth,
for rich soils, abundant sunshine,
and all the foods that you have made for our health and enjoyment.

We thank you for clean waters,
especially for the waters of our region

[Here name the lakes, seas, or rivers and creeks that are most vital to the water table in your region.]

Make us grateful for your gifts so that we protect what we have.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reassure us, O God, that you desire good for your world
and all the people in it,
and that your provisions are sufficient.

Infuse us with a commitment to share with others,
especially with those who do not have such riches
and who today are hungry.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of our nation:
for our prime minister and government;
for the leaders who struggle with drought and famine,
destructive storms and lack of food or shelter;
for leaders of peace movements
and for those who do not know how to create just societies;
for all who are suffering from the horrors of war,
especially for children who do not know the reason for their pain
and have no power to change their situations;
for soldiers, for dictators, for diplomats
and for those who pray each day for the welfare of others.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those suffering

from all forms of injustice, brokenness, or illness,
especially all who have asked for the prayers of this congregation
and for those whose well-being we hold in our hearts.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those concerns we name now aloud or silently . . .

*[Let there be enough time for silence to give everyone who might
speak a chance to do so.]*

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of eternity,

we know that all days are redeemed and held in your grace.

We remember with honor and gratitude

all those whose lives have enriched ours,

and especially those whose faith has given shape to our own.

Keep alive within us the hope of the resurrection.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,

trusting in your mercy through your Son,

Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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: Social Justice and Outreach Activities *Heather*

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.*

With humility for all that God has given us,
let us gratefully give for the work of the church
and the healing of this world.

Offering Hymn: What Can I Do

MV191 OneLicense #A-740237

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. (repeated)

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

**God of creation,
you water the earth and send forth food;
you shower us with grace and feed us with your love.
Accept these gifts,
humble though they may be,
and use them to spread your goodness throughout the earth;
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn: Go to the World **VU420** **OneLicense #A-740237**

- 1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
 Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
 baptising as the sign of our rebirth.
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

- 2 Go to the world! Go into every place.
 Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
 Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

- 3 Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
 the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
 As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

- 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
 for I am with you 'til the age shall end,
 when all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!'
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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

Have courage;
keep the faith;
rely on the strength that comes from God.

Change the Light

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.

I'm not going to put it out, just change it.

See how it is only in one place?

Change Light

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.

Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

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

May the Creator nurture you,
the Teacher walk with you,
and the Spirit strengthen you,
this day and forevermore.

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.*

God of light,
thank you for another day.
With each hour,
may I be watchful for signs of your grace,
ready to show your love,
and eager to tell the good news of Jesus Christ.
Make me more faithful than I was yesterday,
and lead me in the paths of righteousness. 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.*

Thank you for the challenges and blessings of this day, O God.
If I kept faith with you, thank you for your Spirit's help.
If I looked away from you, turn me back around.
As night falls, I relinquish my pride and my fear
and entrust all whom I love to your care,
with prayers for a peaceful rest;
in Jesus' name. Amen.