



The Peaceable Kingdom by Edward Hicks ca.1830-1832 – The Metropolitan Museum of Art

November 13, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
November 13, 2022
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

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 – November 13, 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 or not as is comfortable for you.

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

We gather in this season after Pentecost, it is a time to grow in our discipleship, to learn the ways God calls us to follow Jesus, and to act on that with the blessing and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Announcements

- **There are free Bibles available at the back of the church, please help yourself. They will only be here for a few weeks before being passed on.**
- The Social Justice & Outreach team feels incredibly grateful to report that **donations to the Christmas Gift program have reached \$1,300.** These funds will support two families' Christmases. Three children will receive gifts and clothing, and there is enough for a small gift for the caregivers, along with a treat for each family. Funds will also support youth Christmas activities organized by The Grove Hubs. The gift cards have been purchased and will be dropped off Monday. Don't worry, we can use any late donations to add joy to Christmas. Thank you!!
- Announcing a new music series - **"MID-DAY MUSIC AT MELVILLE" presented and performed by pianist BRAD HALLS.** At weekly concerts commencing Wednesday, November 16, pianist Brad Halls will present music from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at Melville United Church in Fergus. Free will offering. The music will be taken from the "The Great American Songbook" featuring the great composers of the past century: Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers and many more, and music written for the Broadway stage and Hollywood films. The first performance on November 16 will feature music by the legendary George Gershwin.
- **Christmas Bake Sale Plus, at Melville Sat. Dec. 17th 10 - 2pm** Cookies, fudge, squares, tarts, Christmas Pudding & Sauce, Gift Boxes, Christmas Decorations, and Our Famous Melville Meat Pies! If you are not a baker, please consider donating ingredients i.e.: flour, white/brown sugar, butter, raisins, pecans, walnuts, chocolate chips, mincemeat, cherries, etc.. Items should be left in the upstairs kitchen with a note on them. We "Thank you!"
- **Photo 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!

- **Memory Angels:** Our Memory Angels will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Sunday Nov 27 thru Advent and ending January 8/23. Those who have had Angels in the past, can renew your Angel with a minimum donation of \$5, by contacting Lorna Bevcar. Those who are new to this, can have a handmade paper Angel, with an inscription on the skirt, dedicating this Angel in memory of your loved one, from you, for a minimum donation of \$5. The Angels stay at Melville safely packed away, throughout the year. These Angels bring comfort and meaning to the Melville families throughout Advent, knowing we are remembering our loved ones.
- 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. Items most needed as of Nov 8/22:

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Side Kicks-rice, pasta | Apples | Oranges | Canned Fruit |
| Onions | Carrots | Fruit/Pudding Cups | Canned Tomatoes |
| Canned Salmon or Tuna | Soda Crackers | Chunky Soup (Habitant) | Hamburger Helper |
| Tuna Helper | Peanut Butter | Cookies | Toilet Paper |

- **Save your Used Stamps from Incoming Mail:** The holiday season is coming and you'll be receiving cards, etc.. Cut off your used stamps, leaving a 1/2" border around them and give them to Marlene Tosh or put them in the Stamp Box on the shelf in the Cloak Room, where the Lift is on the main floor of the church. Marlene tidies them up and takes them to the Bible Society, to buy bibles. You can do this year-round!
- **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 \(opens in a new tab\)](https://GiftsWithVision.ca) 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, (Hoe-day-no-show-nee)

Anishinabewaki,

Mississaugas of the Credit,

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:

(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)

Jesus tells us by patient endurance we will save our lives.

**Though the way is sometimes hard in this life,
we know that Jesus walks with us.**

We light this Christ Candle that we might remember
**the Light of the World is with us,
in ease and challenge, in all the turnings of life.**

Call to Worship:

God tells us that God's kin-dom will be peaceable,
that all God's creatures will live in harmony.

Harmony sounds very good about now.

In the midst of all that unsettles us,
let us come, lay down our burdens for this hour.

We seek respite and renewal.

In the presence of Creator, Christ and Spirit
our hearts and souls can be nourished for the work of the kin-dom.

Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer (in unison):

Holy God,

**Sometimes we get distracted by the form
and miss the substance.**

**As we come to worship this day,
help us to be aware of the depth of your love,
the depth of your call
the depth of your love for all your creation.**

**May we be prepared to stand with you
and your beloved child Jesus Christ**

**in all that transpires,
that we might truly be your disciples.**

For we pray in the beautiful name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: God who Gives to Life Its Goodness

VU260

OneLicense #A-740237

1 God who gives to life its goodness,
God creator of all joy,
God who gives to us our freedom,
God who blesses tool and toy:
teach us now to laugh and praise you,
deep within your praises sing,

till the whole creation dances
for the goodness of its King.

- 2 God who fills the earth with beauty,
God who binds each friend to friend,
God who names us co-creators
God who wills that chaos end:
grant us now creative spirits,
minds responsive to your mind,
hearts and wills your rule extending
all our acts by Love refined.

Call to Reconciliation

If we pause and consider our lives
we can name our failures, our shortcomings, our sin.
We may feel shame or guilt for these,
but God has shown through time
God's willingness to deliver us,
to be a comfort.
So let us pray to the God who is our strength and refuge.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison)

**Wise and far-seeing God,
we look with our human-limited view of the world
and for us it is sometimes overwhelming.
It is so easy to close our eyes
and pretend there is nothing the matter—
going back to our individual lives and concerns.
So often, we leave the woes of the world
to sort themselves out.
Forgive us for trying to go it alone,
for ignoring your call to stand with you.
We pray that you would guide
our thoughts our planning and action,
that with you we might be agents of change
so that harmony and equity abound.**

Words of Assurance

Even before we call on God,
God answers.
When we speak,
God listens.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

Children's Ministry: The Best Hug Ever

Shawl given to me

Scary stuff in the Gospel reading for today. Jesus is telling the disciples that things are going to be hard for them. Sometimes when things are scary, or I just feel like it's all too much, I wrap myself in my shawl.

There's a Veggie Tale song, "God Is Bigger Than the Boogey Man" that Bob and Larry sing to a young asparagus who is worried about the monsters under his bed and in his closet.

No matter how bad things get, no matter how scared or tired or lonely we get, God is there like a comfy shawl or a warm blanket, caring about us, holding us, helping us to be strong and feel better. It's like the best hug ever.

Hymn: Like a Rock

MV92

OneLicense #A-740237

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.

Like the starry night sky God is over our head.

Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.

Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God ever more.

Prayer of Illumination

God of wisdom,
we pray that you Spirit
might convey to us your Word for us,
that in the hearing,
we might know your will for us,
and trust in the power to carry it out.

Scripture: Isaiah 65(17-25) *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

God shall create joy and delight; the wolf and the lamb together

"For I am about to create
new heavens and a new earth!

The things of the past
will not be remembered or come to mind!

Be glad and rejoice forever and ever in what I create,
because I now create Jerusalem to be a joy
and its people to be a delight!

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it
or the cry of distress.

No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days,
or old people who do not live out their days.

They die as mere youths
Who reach but a hundred years,
and those who fall short of a hundred
will be thought accursed.

At last they will live in the houses they build,
and eat the fruit of the vineyard they plant.
They will not build for another to inhabit;
they will not plant for another to eat.
For the days of my people
will be like the days of a tree,
and my chosen ones will enjoy
the fruits of their labours.
They will not labour in vain
or bear children doomed to die;
For they and their descendants
are a people blessed by God.
Even before they call upon me, I will answer;
and while they speak, I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb will feed side by side;
the lion will eat straw like an ox.
Serpents will be content to crawl on the ground;
They will not injure or destroy
In all my holy mountain”

Ministry of Music

Scripture: Luke 21:5-19 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

Persecution in the days to come; trust God!

Some disciples were speaking of how the Temple was adorned with precious stones and votive offerings. Jesus said, “You see all these things? The day will come when one stone won’t be left on top of another—everything will be torn down.”

They asked, “When will this happen Rabbi? And what will be the sign that it’s about to happen?”

Jesus said, “Take care not to be misled. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the One’ and ‘The time is at hand.’ Don’t follow them. And don’t be perturbed when you hear of wars and insurrections. These things must happen first, but the end doesn’t follow immediately.”

Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and empire against empire. There will be great earthquakes, plagues and famines in various places—and in the sky there will be frightening omens and great signs. But before any of this, they’ll arrest you and persecute you, bringing you before the synagogues and sending you to prison, bringing you to trial before rulers and governors. And it will all be because of my name—this will be your opportunity to give your testimony. So make up your minds not to worry about your defense before hand, for I’ll give you the words, and a wisdom that none of your adversaries can take exception to or contradict. You’ll be betrayed even by your parents, brother, sisters, relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, yet not a hair of your head will be harmed. By patient endurance, you’ll save your lives.”

Prayer

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: A Stronger Bond

Have you ever had a beloved piece of ceramic or porcelain or pottery, maybe like a mug or teapot or serving bowl, and you use it every chance you get. If you're like me, it may be only a matter of time before the bowl becomes cracked or the spout on the teapot gets banged and a piece is broken off, or the mug gets knocked off the table and ends up in pieces all over the floor.



My approach to such things is to gather up all the pieces and try to put them back together again. I can see how perfectly they fit together, but even with super-glue, the pieces will never be the same. Maybe they will still be usable, but they will have that repaired crack or piece glued back in, and they will never be as beautiful again.

Maybe like me, you have reluctantly thrown out the damaged item, thinking that it is beyond repair.

Maybe you feel like that about the world:

- rising cases of Covid and other viruses overwhelming hospitals so that elective surgery is cancelled, even for children
- COP 27 gathering where the predictions and warnings about climate change are dire
- Shortages of oil that mean higher prices for some and for others the very real worry that they may not be able to heat their homes this winter
- Labour action that impacts schooling of children all too used to being at home
- Worries about significant increases in the costs of food, shelter, taxes, while at the same time services may have to be cut

There seems to be so much broken about this tired and weary world. It's hard to see how it could possibly be repaired and restored, so that the cracks don't show.

In the book of Isaiah, the prophet writes in a time of return from exile in Babylon. The Israelites have been attacked and overrun by Babylon, most have been carted off to Babylon to be slaves for their captors. Those who remain do so in the shadow of a destroyed Jerusalem, no longer the city with the magnificent Temple that has been the place of worship, where God was understood to reside.

Isaiah is prophesying for God to those who have returned from exile and found their homes destroyed, broken, torn apart, and the pieces left as a testament to the might of their conquerors. They have been beaten down and have suffered not only physically and mentally, but spiritually, as they were taken hundreds of miles away from the Temple where they worshipped the One God.

Isaiah has news for the Israelites. God is about to do a new thing:

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth!

The things of the past will not be remembered or come to mind!"

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;

No more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.

No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days,

Or old people who do not live out their days.

It is easy to hear these words as a promise that the suffering and loss will be countered by something better, and so there will be no need to think back on that terrible trauma, but God is saying something more than this.

It will be better than it was even in the good times, even when the Israelites were brought into the Promised Land, the land flowing with milk and honey. These new heavens and new earth will be so spectacular that there will be no memory of even the good things, and certainly not of the trauma. But how can that be?

A number of years ago I was introduced to the art of kintsugi, a Japanese practice of taking the broken pieces of an item of ceramic or pottery and rebuilding it, but not with glue, not with some of those littlest pieces missing that make the repair so obvious, and, frankly, ugly. Kintsugi is the art of reassembling broken pottery or porcelain with a lacquer that is mixed with gold, silver or platinum.



Not only is the item repaired, but its beauty is stunning, often much more so than before the piece was broken. The item is often more valuable after mending than it was before as well. Not only does one not think of the bowl or mug as it was lying in pieces on the floor, but one doesn't even remember the original item before the mishap.

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It will be better than it was even in the good times, even when the Israelites were brought into the Promised Land, the land flowing with milk and honey. Theologian Anna Marsh puts it like this:

Naturally, this restoration will include the material concerns of human life and community: security, prosperity, fertility, longevity (65:20b-23). But it also points to the current moment and says, “this pain, this dislocation, this mourning that is so all-consuming *won’t even be a memory.*” These basic aspects of the human condition—the things so many of us spend our days *trying* not to think about until they break into our lives and shatter us to bits “shall not be remembered or come to mind” (65:17). In the midst of crushing disruption, disappointment, cynicism, and hopelessness, the word comes through Isaiah, *not only this suffering but all suffering you have known—gone.* As if put to sleep in the night.

One might think of the fairy godmothers in *Sleeping Beauty* putting everyone to sleep. It will be like that—suffering and pain, this new suffering and the old suffering that you have lived with for generations, will all be put to sleep. They will not keep creeping up around doors and jump out from cupboards. There will be no flashbacks that re-traumatize.



Photo Credit: Anke Gladnick

As we collectively and individually face the rollercoaster that is life, as we consider all the ways in which we have become banged up and bruised, weary and worried, we might see ourselves as far removed from the beautiful fresh-from-God baby whom we meet for the first time, in the shy arms of our children or nieces and nephews or grandchildren.

But the other thing about pottery that has been restored by kintsugi, is that it is stronger than before. The bonding of parts creates a new strength that endures.



We might wonder about our own strength, but God tells us in these new heavens and new earth that we will know the strength of God's presence and love.

What if this week you tried paying attention to where you need to be reminded of God's ability to do a glorious new thing. As Anna Marsh questions:

- Where do you need renewal?
- Where do you need that deep-in-your-bones, can't-remember-the-old-way kind of newness?
- If not now, when have you needed it?
- Who in your circle needs it right now?

May we know the blessing of beauty and strength, of a newness that overrides all the old. May we know God's love.

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

Hymn: My Soul Cries Out MV120 OneLicense #A-740237

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed our sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
 Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears,
 for the dawn draws near,
 and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,

you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears,

for the dawn draws near,

and the world is about to turn!

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,

Not a stone will be left on stone,

Let the king beware for your justice tears

ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more,

for the food they can never earn;

there are tables spread,

ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears,

for the dawn draws near,

and the world is about to turn!

Though the nations rage from age to age,

we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us

from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard

is the promise which holds us bound,

'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,

who is turning the world around.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears,

for the dawn draws near,

and the world is about to turn!

Joys and Concerns

- Certificate of Recognition to Melville UC from the Centre Wellington Food Bank
- Happy Birthday
 - Fred Martin celebrates 86 years on Sunday, November 20th

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 *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 44, p. 90. Copyright 2022, alt.*

Loving God,
out of darkness you bring light,
out of despair you bring hope,
out of fear you bring joy,
and out of death you bring life,
mysterious, glorious, and eternal.
Be with us now,
and hear us as we pray
for others and ourselves.

As the seasons progress,
as autumn's cool breezes
blow through the northern part
of your world,
and spring's joyful light
dances across the southern
part of your world,
we remember and pray for
your whole world.
Help all peoples, in all places,
to give thanks for the gift
of life, not only our own
but that of all living things,
animals and plants,
and guide us to the resolve
to do better, and be better
in our calling to be stewards
of your wondrous creation.

As we, your beloved children,
continue to seek new ways to
bring your mission to this world,
so in need of hope,
we pray for this church and all churches
as they seek to find their place
in a changed and changing world.
Help us all to remain faithful
to your calling, to place
the needs of others above our own,
and to have the boldness

to tell hard truths to a world of easy answers.

As our community, society,
and country struggles with inequality,
fear, poverty and disease
we pray for ourselves and all those with the power
to bring about justice and change,
that we and they will find strength in you
to work for the good of all people.

As we each consider
our own lives,
our own relationships,
our own hopes and dreams
we pray that you will
be with us through it all, loving God,
that we will know your
presence, your care,
and your unending love,
through Jesus our Saviour.
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: Christmas Gift Program Results and Thank You



The Social Justice & Outreach team feels incredibly grateful to report that donations to the Christmas Gift program have reached \$1,300.

These funds will support two families' Christmases. Three children will receive gifts and clothing, and there is enough for a small gift for the caregivers, along with a treat for each family. Funds will also support youth Christmas activities organized by The Grove Hubs.

Melville has a long history of giving time, talents and financial support to our community.

We are so thankful for the caring generosity of our congregation.

It is our love in action.

We hope it brings joy to these families and the youth.

We hope these gifts from strangers remind them – and us - that the world is still a wonderful place, that we are all connected, and that they are loved and supported.

Most of all, we hope they will feel less alone.

The gift cards have been purchased and will be dropped off Monday.

Don't worry, we can use any late donations to add joy to Christmas.

Thank you!!

Offering Invitation

Because God first loved us,

we are made to love one another.

For the sake of the life of the world, let us offer ourselves,
our time, and our possessions as signs of love.

Offering Hymn: What Can I Do

MV191 OneLicense #A-740237

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

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

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. *(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 the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the ox,

we give thanks for these gifts

and pray they might be agents of your peace.

May they serve your creation

as we seek your new heaven and new earth.

Help us take these gifts out into a world

filled with distress and calm it.

Help us take these gifts out into a world

filled with pain and heal it.

Help us take these gifts out into a world

filled with silence and speak up;

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: O Day of Peace**VU682****OneLicense #A-740237**

- 1 O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
 May swords of hate fall from our hands,
 our hearts from envy find release,
 till by God's grace our warring world
 shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.
- 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
 Then enemies shall learn to love,
 all creatures find their true accord;
 the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
 for all the earth shall know the Lord.

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

Go out into the world in peace.
Live fully.
Build homes.
Plant vineyards.
Give thanks.
Work for what is right.

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 *VU 349*

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
walk with you on the road.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart
open your hearts to love.
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,
and may everyone you meet
see the face of Christ in 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.*

Lord of Creation, every morning you renew the earth with light.
I praise for you the morning light, and I rejoice in the life you
have given me.

Let me be a friend to those who do not know your love.

Let me offer hope to those who do not trust your goodness.

Let me embody graciousness to those who do not understand your peace.

Help me to be a blessing to all I encounter—

to bear witness to your goodness through Jesus Christ. 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.*

God of salvation,

we are reminded of the myriad of ways
you have strengthened and supported us today.

In the midst of challenge and promise
you reach for us.

You create a new heaven and a new earth

and call us to participate in the renewing of hearts and minds.

Be with us and those we love this night.

Be with your beloved whose fear prevails over your comfort,
and bring us through this night

to the dawning of a new day. Amen.