



**November 6, 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, Suzanne Flewelling

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](mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com)

Web Site

[www.melvilleunited.com](http://www.melvilleunited.com)

Pastoral Care Numbers

709-682-8756, 519-843-3841

**Melville United Church**  
**November 6, 2022**  
**Remembrance Sunday**

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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 6, 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, on Remembrance Sunday. We remember with gratitude all those who served, offering themselves, often their well-being and in some cases, their lives, in the pursuit of freedom and liberty. We remember, and we seek, and work for, peace.

**Announcements**

- **UCW Meat Pies are available for purchase** after the service from Marg Frayne. **Only \$4.50 each**, cash or cheques made payable to Melville United Church UCW.
- **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.
- **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](mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com) with an e-transfer or use one of the specially labelled envelopes that will be available until November 6<sup>th</sup>. **All donations must be received by November 7<sup>th</sup>.**
- **You are invited to a Zoom book study on *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* resuming Mondays starting November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** Contact Rev Lynda to sign up or for more details.
- **Mid-Day Music at Melville** – Commencing Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, and each Wednesday to follow, pianist Brad Halls will present 90 minutes of music from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Free will offering available if inclined to.
- **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.
- **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, (Hoe-day-no-show-nee)  
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:** *Beth W. Johnston, 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 world is often filled with turmoil and conflict.

**Christ came that we might have abundance of life and true peace.**

May this light remind us of the peace of Christ.

**Amen!**

**Call to Worship:** *Richard Bott, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022, p.47. Used with permission.*

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

In a world of war...

**we search for peace.**

In a world of confusion...

**we search for calm.**

In a world of pain...

**we search for healing.**

In a world of isolation...

**we search for communion.**

Communion with each other...

**and communion with God.**

Let us search together...

**and let us worship our God.**

**Hymn: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**      **VU326**

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace.
  
- 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.
  
- 3 He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.
  
- 4 Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,  
your tongues again employ;  
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,  
and leap, you lame, for joy!
  
- 5 My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

**Opening Prayer (in unison):**

**O God, at this annual time of remembrance,**

**our thoughts turn to the violence,**

**fear and pain of war.**

**Come gently in our worship this morning**

that we may know your peace—  
not the peace of violence ignored and fear repressed,  
but the true peace of evil confronted,  
injustice exposed,  
and reconciliation achieved.  
We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

**Children's Ministry:**

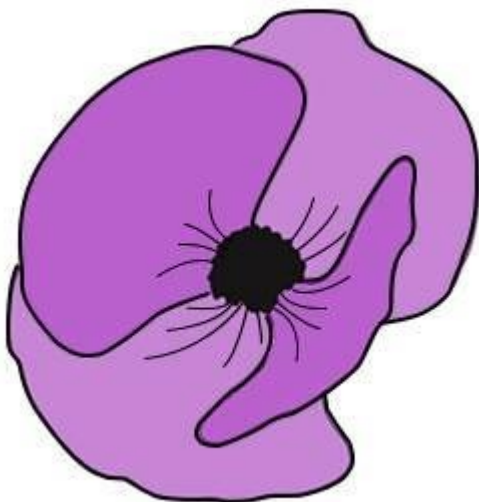
When you think of a poppy, what do you think of? – red flower, Remembrance Day

I didn't know, and maybe you didn't either, that there is a purple poppy.

This is what purple poppies look like growing in a field



And this is a drawing of a purple poppy like you might see in Remembrance Day material



So what does a purple poppy have to do with Remembrance Day?

In Australia purple poppies are worn along with red poppies to remember and honour the animals that have served in war. There are horses, who pulled pieces of equipment, dogs who track and help to sniff out land mines and carrier pigeons who, in the days before drones or even planes, were outfitted with cameras on their breast so they could fly behind enemy lines and take pictures so our side would know what was going on.

Now I haven't been able to find any purple poppies to wear, but maybe when you see someone with a red poppy, or you wear one yourself, you can also think of the purple poppy and all the animals that served in the military to help keep us free and able to live in peace.

### **Prayer/Blessing**

Today, O God, we remember times of war,  
and we are saddened to remember the lives that were lost.  
We remember that many, many soldiers were killed in war,  
and also mothers and fathers; children and animals.  
We remember that bombs destroyed schools,  
factories, churches, and houses.  
We remember all the horrible things that happen in war.  
Today, O God, we remember  
and we are thankful that we live in a peaceful country.  
We remember all who gave their lives  
so that their children and grandchildren could live in peace.  
We pray that all people on earth  
will learn to live peacefully together—  
to share, that none will be hungry or homeless;  
to solve our problems by talking not fighting;  
to respect all forms of life,  
and to use our knowledge to save life and not to destroy it. Amen.

### **Hymn: I Am Walking a Path of Peace**

**MV221**

**OneLicense #A-740237**

I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace,  
lead me home, lead me home.

I am walking a path of love,  
I am walking a path of love,  
I am walking a path of love,  
lead me home, lead me home.

I am walking a path of grace,  
I am walking a path of grace,  
I am walking a path of grace,  
lead me home, lead me home.

I am walking a path of hope,  
I am walking a path of hope,  
I am walking a path of hope,  
lead me home, lead me home.

## We Remember

Hymn: VU524 "O Canada"

O Canada!

Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all of us command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,

The True North strong and free!

From far and wide,

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

## **Reading In Flanders Fields** by *LCol John McCrae*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky

The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved, and now we lie

In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:

To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders fields.

**Remembrance – A Candle-Lighting Litany** *Heather McClure, Gathering: Pentecost 2 2022, p. 64. Used with permission.*

Loving God, on this day in which we remember and hope for the end to all wars,  
we offer our confession for the ways in which we have not honoured  
the promised of the armistice and peace.

**We acknowledge that we, as individuals and as a country,  
have supported the furtherance of wars and rumours of wars  
with what we have done and said,  
and with what we have left undone and unsaid.**

**We pray for forgiveness and for the strength to call for peace,  
and for the transformation of all aspects  
of our way of living in support of peace.**

**May we always remember those who have died  
as we seek to be peacemakers,  
so that their deaths may be honoured with the building  
of a truly peaceable kin-dom. Amen**

And so, let us remember all that has happened in times of war to ensure that we begin to understand why war is never the best answer—no matter the question.

*Light the first candle.*

We light this candle to remember those of all genders who died in the service to our nation in times of war, on peacekeeping missions, and in conflicts in other countries. We remember especially those who suffer from the traumatic effects of their service.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning...

**we will remember them.**

*Light the second candle.*

We light this candle to remember victims of war on all sides, especially the most vulnerable: women, children, those who are sick or living with challenges and elderly people.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning...

**we will remember them.**

We light this candle to remember the service animals who died in support of the troops: the horses, the dogs, the carrier pigeons.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning...

**we will remember them.**

*Light the fourth candle.*

We light this candle for the families of all service people. We give thanks for the support and care they have offered and continue to offer, including when their loved ones have returned home, and when they have not.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning...

**we will remember them.**

*Light the fifth candle.*

We light the candle for our earth and all creation, recognizing that it, too, is a casualty of war. We acknowledge the ecological destruction of the earth, the sea, and the air, and we pray that our Creator might guide us to restore the ongoing devastation of our natural world.

**Loving God, make us-co-creators with you.**

*Light the sixth candle.*

We light this candle for the hundreds of thousands of refugees displaced by war who must seek new homelands, a safe and peaceful place to live, and a fresh start.

**Loving God, make us instruments of your peace.**

*Light the seventh candle.*

We light this candle as a candle of love to remind us that God commands us to forgive one another and to be reconciled to one another.

**Loving God, make us instruments of your peace.**

*Light the eighth candle.*

We light this candle because we believe Jesus is the Light of the World. His light shines in the worst of times, and nothing will ever put it out.

**Loving God, let the light of Christ shine in and through our lives.**



**Reading of the Honour Roll** – *by Don Grant*

**Last Post** – *played by Kaillie Rawn*

**Minute of Silence**

**Rouse** – *played by Kaillie Rawn*

**Responsive Prayer**

Eternal rest grant to them, O God, and may perpetual light shine upon them.  
May their souls, through your great mercy, rest in peace. Amen.

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

God of wisdom,  
by your Spirit may your Word be proclaimed,  
that we may know good news in our hearts and minds  
and bear witness to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ  
in word and deed.  
Quiet in us any voice but your own,  
that we might hear your Word to us today. **Amen.**

**Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17** *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

*Let no one deceive you; stand fast in the traditions*

Concerning the coming of Jesus Christ  
and our being gathered to meet our Saviour  
we beg you, sisters and brothers,  
don't become easily agitated or disturbed by some prophecy, report or letter  
falsely attributed to us, which says that the day of our Saviour has come.  
Let no one deceive you, in any way.  
It cannot happen until the Great Falling Away occurs,  
and the rebel, the Lost One, has appeared.

This is the Enemy,  
the one who claims to be so much greater than all that people call "God,"  
greater than every object of worship—  
so much so that it enthrones itself in God's sanctuary and claims to be God.  
Surely you remember me telling you these things when I was with you?

...

But we ought to thank God always for you,  
sisters and brothers loved by Christ,  
because God chose you from the beginning—  
to be saved by the sanctifying Spirit and by believing in the truth.

God called you through our preaching of the Good News,  
so that you might gain the glory of our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Therefore, sisters and brothers, stand firm.  
Hold fast to the traditions you received from us,  
either by word of mouth or by letter.  
May our Saviour Jesus Christ and our Abba God—  
who loved us and in mercy gave us eternal consolation and hope—  
console your hearts and strengthen them for every good work and word.

**Scripture: Luke 20:27-38** (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

*A woman marries seven brothers; whose wife is she in resurrection?*

Some Sadducees—the ones who claim there is no resurrection—  
came forward to pose this question:  
“Teacher, Moses wrote that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife and no child,  
the brother should marry the woman now widowed,  
to raise up children with her.  
Let’s say that there were seven brothers.  
The first one married and died childless.  
The second brother then married the woman, then the third, and so on.  
All seven died without leaving her any children.  
Finally the woman herself died.  
At the resurrection, who will be her husband? Remember, seven married her.”

Jesus said to them, “The children of this age marry each other,  
but those judged worthy of a place in the age to come  
and of the resurrection from the dead  
don’t take husbands or wives.  
They can no longer die, like the angels—  
they are children of God, since they are children of the resurrection.  
That the dead rise again was even demonstrated by Moses when,  
in the passage about the bush, he called the Most High  
‘the God of Sarah and Abraham,  
and the God of Rebecca and Isaac,  
and the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob.’  
God is not the God of the dead, but the living.  
All are alive to God.”

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

Holy God,  
you have commanded us to not be afraid  
and assured us of your presence.  
In the midst of trials and joys,  
sorrows and dreams  
may we know your presence and rejoice.  
Grant us courage, O God,  
to take delight in your spirit in all times and all places.

Grant us faith, O God,  
to see the myriad of ways you give life.  
Grant us hope, O God,  
to participate in your work in the world.  
Grant us love, O God,  
to welcome, respond, and act with compassion in all  
we say and do.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, 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: Acts of Hope**

It seems a good day to share a story, a story from a time ago, about a time even longer ago:



#### **Bill Remembers -- For Nov 11**

Remembrance Day was always very important to Bill. He always made it into a week long event by visiting with schools, Cub packs, Brownie groups, Sunday School classes and so on. But that is the end of the story. To understand why Bill did this we need to go back to the beginning, in this case the beginning is in 1941 when Bill was only 10 or 11.

Bill was the youngest of 8 children. His idol and best friend was his oldest brother Sam. Sam was twelve years older than Bill. In 1941 he was starting out on his own with a job and had just gotten engaged to be married. But, Canada was at war and Bill and Sam came from a family which put a high importance on serving one's country. So Sam decided that he would join the army. Sam went off to basic training. After his training Sam came back home to be married. It was a time of great excitement. Sam got on the train for Halifax shortly after his wedding; from there he was going to get on a ship that would take him to England. Sam and Bill were both excited, Sam promised that he would bring back souvenirs and tell Bill all about the places he got to see. Bill was jealous but he was still too young to join the army.

For the first few months Bill got lots of letters from Sam who was training and drilling in England. There were a lot of rumours going around town that there was going to be an invasion of France soon but nobody knew for sure. Sam was also telling Bill all about the sights of England, he was able to visit the town where their grandfather had been born and meet with cousins who were still in

England. Then the summer came and the letters didn't come as often. Sam was busy but he couldn't tell Bill what he was doing. One day in late August Bill was outside working in the garden when some men came over to visit. Bill didn't recognize them but he just waved and kept on working. But as he worked he was suddenly hit with the sense that something was wrong.

Bill walked towards the house and as he got closer he could hear his mother crying so he started to run. When Bill got inside his mom and dad were in the front room with the visitors. "Bill, come here for a moment" his father called. Bill went in and saw his mom crying and everyone looked very serious, his dad looked like he was crying too. Bill sat down. "Bill," said his dad, "These men have come to give us news about Sam." Bill looked at the men and suddenly felt very sick. "They have?" he asked. "Yes," his dad said taking a deep breath, "Bill, Sam's unit was part of a force that was sent to invade a French port town named Dieppe. Unfortunately Sam's unit ran into a German convoy in the English Channel. Sam's boat was sunk before they got to shore. Bill, Sam is dead." Bill couldn't believe this. Sam was supposed to go, have great adventures, collect some souvenirs, and come back. He wasn't supposed to die. Bill couldn't handle any more. He ran out of the house and hid in the garden shed for the rest of the day.

Time went by and the war came to an end. The men who had gone off to fight started to come home. As they returned, Bill would go and visit with them. Some of them came back missing an arm or a leg or blind. Some of them had been wounded but had healed with only the scars to show. Some of them had never been hit but certainly weren't the same people on the inside. Bill would ask each of them about what had happened. Many of them had trouble talking about it but from the people who could talk about it, Bill learned far more than he ever wanted to know. He heard of the horrors of an artillery bombardment, of the terror of running ashore at the landings in Normandy or Sicily, of the sickening stench of mud and blood and decaying flesh. Finally Bill stopped asking.

Some years later, Canada was again at war. This time it was in a place that Bill had never heard of, a place called Korea. Bill wanted to honour his brother's memory so he enlisted and went over to fight. Bill actually did not see a lot of fighting but what he saw changed him forever.

When he got back Bill dedicated himself to making sure that people did not forget the lessons he and so many others had learned. He organized the local Remembrance Day celebrations; he made sure that the schools had people come to visit, he told his story whenever he could. As time went by this became more important to him. He could see that the younger children had a hard time understanding Remembrance Day because the war wasn't real to them. Their experience of war was something in movies and games played on the playground. Bill did all he could to tell them what war really was. But there was something missing, something he knew he needed to do.

Several years after coming back from Korea Bill started going to church again. He had stopped after Sam was killed because it didn't seem to matter. And then as he grew older he found that the church was important. As he went to church and read the Bible Bill began to get a picture of how God wanted the world to look. God's plan wasn't for people to fight; God wanted people to live together in peace. This struck home to Bill and he realized what he had been forgetting in his work around Remembrance Day. He had been forgetting to stress the importance that this never happened again.

So he began to teach this to the children he met. He began to work for peace in his community, to lead protests against nuclear weapons, to call for more peaceful solutions to conflicts within his

town, his country and across the world. So it was with sadness that he read of battles being fought in Cyprus, in Israel and Egypt, in Bosnia, in Kosovo, in Afghanistan, and so on. With each new crisis he strengthened his call for other alternatives. This, he realized, was what Remembrance Day was for. Not only to remember but also to prevent. "Never Again", he said, "Never again can we allow the price of human life to be worth so little as to send young men off to fight and die."

So now, each year Bill still helps to organize the Remembrance Day service, he still goes into the schools and churches and youth groups. He tells them about Sam, about the neighbours who came back from the war, about Korea, and he tells them that they have the power and the responsibility to change the world. And each year, in the afternoon of November 11 Bill returns to the cenotaph. Everyone else has gone home, all that remains of the service are the poppies and wreaths placed around the memorial. And Bill walks up to the cenotaph and reads the names carved into its face. He reaches out a wrinkled old hand and rubs his fingers across the bumps that spell out Sam's name. With tears filling his eyes Bill drops to his knees and begins to pray for peace and for the loss of his brother and friends.

In our Gospel reading for today, Jesus is challenged about the resurrection—to whom will a woman be married in the resurrection, when she has been married to each of seven brothers in her life. The challenge comes from the Sadducees, a group of theologically conservative Jewish leaders, who only follow the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. As there is no discussion in the Torah about the resurrection, they do not believe in it. Their question about a Levirate marriage as spelled out in Deuteronomy to protect a childless widow, is almost absurd, and the point is to trip up Jesus in their riddle. But Jesus is not dissuaded, and politely and thoughtfully answers their question.

And in his answer, Jesus offers a whole different understanding of the resurrection. It is not like this life. People can die no more; they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.



Theologian Kenyatta R. Gilbert writes of a neurosurgeon, Eben Alexander, who was rendered comatose for seven days from a severe bacterial meningitis infection. His experiences during the coma affirmed for him that there is "consciousness beyond the body." And he further says, "The universe that I experienced in my coma...is the same one Einstein and Jesus were speaking of in (very) different ways." What hope for Dr. Alexander and for all of us!

As veteran Bill works to change the world from the one of war that he and his brother and friends have known, he too lives in hope, works in hope, for a better world. May we all be inspired by their

messages to go and do the same.

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

### Hymn: God Weeps

MV78

OneLicense #A-740237

1. God weeps at love withheld,  
at strength misused,  
at children's innocence abused,  
and till we change the way we love, God weeps.
2. God bleeds at anger's fist,  
at trust betrayed,  
at women battered and afraid,  
and till we change the way we win, God bleeds.
3. God cries at hungry mouths,  
at running sores,  
at creatures dying without cause,  
and till we change the way we care, God cries.
4. God waits for stones to melt,  
for peace to seed,  
for hearts to hold each other's need,  
and till we understand the Christ, God waits.

### Joys and Concerns

- Happy Birthday
  - George Warden celebrated 95 years on November 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Ron Steurnol celebrates on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

### 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.

God of the Living and the Dead, we are forever living to you.  
You call us to be the body of the risen Christ,  
extending eternal comfort and good hope to those all around us.

We pray for the church universal and for all who bring  
comfort and hope to others.

We pray for peace between nations, between religions and denominations,  
and between families and among all people.

We pray with thanksgiving for all the guides and mentors  
who have gone before us  
and for those who declare your mighty acts from one generation to the next.

We pray for those who have served in the military,  
those who have died, those who have lived,  
but will never be the same physically or mentally,  
the many who know the suffering of war  
those who inflict war and violence  
to satisfy lust for power and greed for wealth,  
that they may know healing and wholeness,  
selfless peace and love for all creation.

We pray for those who are nearing death, that they  
may know their redeemer lives.

Redeeming God, through Jesus Christ you strengthen  
us and give us hope.  
Renew our hearts that we may worship and  
bless you forever,  
eternally making joyful noise and singing new songs  
to proclaim the good news of your grace. **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.

**Minute for Mission: Mission & Service Partner Urges Banning Killer Robots**

*Fully autonomous weapons use artificial intelligence to select and attack targets*



*Credit: Photo by Etienne Girardet on Unsplash*

Killer robots sound like creepy sci fi. But they are real, and the World Council of Churches—a Mission & Service partner—is taking them seriously. So much so that in 2021 it released a campaign guide for churches on the topic in six different languages.

The [free guide\(opens in a new tab\)](#) introduces churches to “killer robots,” or lethal autonomous weapons systems, and help raise awareness of the need for Christians to advocate for a pre-emptive ban on the future development of such weapons.

Calling the weapons a “unique menace,” the Right Rev. Dr. Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry, underscores the urgency to act in the guide’s foreword: “They [lethal autonomous weapons systems] are a futile and sinister attempt to sanitize war...and contravene fundamental principles of international law. They simply make killing easier,” he writes.

Armed drones are nothing new. But unlike existing semi-autonomous weapons like drones, fully autonomous weapons have no human-operated “kill switch” and instead use artificial intelligence to make decisions over life and death. These machines can both select and attack targets.

And they already exist. In an article published last May, *Foreign Policy* notes that Israel, Russia, South Korea, and Turkey have reportedly deployed weapons with autonomous capabilities, and Australia, Britain, China, and the United States are investing heavily in their development.

Around the world, churches are joining the call to raise awareness about the risks posed by killer robots and urging their governments to take steps to ban such technology.

Your generosity through [Mission & Service](#) supports the work of organizations like the World Council of Churches that are urging governments to put a pre-emptive ban on autonomous weapons systems and developing awareness tools like the campaign guide.

James 3:18 reads, “[A] harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace” (ESV). When we sew peace, we reap peace. Thank you for supporting worldwide peace-making efforts through Mission & Service.

**Offering Invitation** *Jim McKean, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 48. Used with permission.*

Remembering the sacrifice of others, we bring our offering forward today. May this sacrifice be one to bring new life to all of the places and people who are in need of resurrection. Your offering will now be received for the work and witness of this congregation of incarnate 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** *Beth W. Johnston, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022, p.48. Used with permission.*

As missiles are aimed and fired,

**we pray for peace.**

As the rhetoric of retaliation grows louder,

the cries of suffering rise to you, O God.



For the fear-filled and the fearsome,

**we pray.**

For those who know all too well the realities of war,

**we pray.**

We pray for peace and for the justice that comes with all true peace.

Hear our prayer, God of peace, and receive these offerings  
that they in some way might work for your peace. Amen.

**Hymn: Let There Be Light            VU679**

- 1        Let there be light,  
          let there be understanding,  
          let all the nations gather,  
          let them be face to face;
  
- 2        open our lips,  
          open our minds to ponder,  
          open the door of concord  
          opening into grace;
  
- 3        perish the sword,  
          perish the angry judgement,  
          perish the bombs and hunger,  
          perish the fight for gain;
  
- 4        hallow our love,  
          hallow the deaths of martyrs,  
          hallow their holy freedom,  
          hallowed be your name;
  
- 5        your kingdom come,  
          your spirit turn to language,  
          your people speak together,  
          your spirit never fade;

**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 into the world in peace,  
bearing witness to the God of presence.  
Bless God's holy name forever and ever,  
and hold fast to the traditions you have been taught,  
giving thanks in all things.

**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** *Laura J. Turnbull, Gathering: Pentecost 2 2022, p.48, alt. Used with permission.*

May the God of Justice  
guide you in the path of peace.  
May the Christ of Liberation  
reveal to you the way of new life.  
May the holy Spirit  
awaken in you the desire to work for harmony.

**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.*

Holy One, I want to see you today in this world with my own eyes.  
Even though your greatness is unsearchable,  
today I want to meditate on your wondrous works all around me.  
Give me the eyes of faith through which to see you.  
Renew me, that I may praise you with a new song. 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, thank you for guiding my steps on your paths today.  
Where my feet may have slipped, forgive me.  
You have wondrously shown me your steadfast love through the course of this day.  
Now let me fall asleep in the shadow of your wings,  
for I have seen today that you are my redeemer, the living God. Amen.