



October 30, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
October 30, 2022
Observing All Saints Day

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 30, 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 or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

We gather in this season after Pentecost, observing All Saints Day. We remember with gratitude those saints, known and unknown who showed us the ways of faith, and in whose footsteps we seek to be faithful to God.

Announcements

- **The Choir is asked to stay after the service for a picture to be included in the Photo Directory**
- **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.**
- **Trinity Centres Foundation Presentation – Tuesday November 1st at 7pm in the Chapel.** Trinity Centres Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that helps churches make the best use of their space, opening up the church as a community hub, and welcoming in the neighbourhood and town. Mike Wood Daly will make this presentation to see how TCF might help Melville move forward. Please plan to attend.
- **You are invited to a Zoom book study on *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* resuming Mondays starting November 7th at 7pm.** Contact Rev Lynda to sign up or for more details.
- **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.**
- **Barrie Hill United Church BBQ Chicken Drive-Thru Take-Out – November 5th 4:00-6:00pm** ½ chicken/baked potato/baked beans/coleslaw/roll/cookie **ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY Tickets \$20 each.** For tickets call Sandra 226-343-0367 or Shirley 519-822-4997 or purchase tickets at Connect Equipment or Ennotville Garage

- **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** – 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!
- 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: *Catherine Elsdon, Gathering: Pentecost 2 2022, p.46, alt. 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)

On All Hallows' Eve, we will turn on porch lights

and place flaming candles into pumpkins to light the way for little trick-or-treaters.

When we gather as followers of Jesus,

we light a candle to guide us in his Way.

Call to Worship: *Juanita Austin, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022, p.46, alt. Used with permission.*

“In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.”

**So, we affirm in our creed,
and so today, with intention and compassion,
we turn our thoughts to those
who have influenced our lives, our communities, and our world through their living,
and whose influence lives on, beyond their dying.**

As we have been blessed by them,
so we take time today to bless them with our gratitude
and with our intention to let our light shine in the world.

Hymn: We Praise You, O God **VU218**

- 1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Opening Prayer and Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation: *Robin Wardlaw, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2022, p.46. Used with permission.*

Holy One, creator of days gone by and days to come,
we are created with imagination and memory.
We are full of feelings sparked by what we know, read, and understand of the past.
We are full of prayers of hope for the future.

Come now, O Spirit, on this day as we celebrate the saints of this congregation:
the stories warm us, unite us, inspire us, and surprise us.

Today we celebrate those who worshipped and worked here before us.
Let their faith guide us this day and in all the days to come.

And help us to admit to you, our Maker, and to ourselves,
our weakness, our faults, our lack of faith.

Understand us as we confess our sins:
the times when we let our fear seize us,
our prejudice guide us,
our hungers rule us.

(a time of silent prayer)

Calm us, guide us, free us, O Love.

**Assure us of forgiveness, hope, and new life,
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

The gifts of Love, the Source, are beyond measure.

One of the greatest gifts is the forgiveness that comes
through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Love Incarnate.

In Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

Children's Ministry:



Blessing of the Poppies

God, you want to love us and to have us love you and each other
God, you also wish us to have peace in our hearts,
be near us as we remember and pray.

The red colour of the poppy
reminds us of the blood that is shed in war,
of the white crosses which remain on distant battlefields,
and of the blood that flowed from your own Son.

O God, turn us away from the ways of war and violence.

The delicate petals of the poppy
speak to us of the beauty and of the delicateness of peace.

O God, lead us in new pathways of justice and love.

May the seeds of peace take root in us
and blossom in a world where flowers may grow unharmed,
and poppies of remembrance and gratitude flourish.

In the name of your Son, we pray it. Amen.

Prayer/Blessing

Hymn: Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New

MV115

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Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)
I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)
I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way. *(repeated)*

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

Pour out your Spirit upon us, O God;
with your Word enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
that we might live in hope;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture: Ephesians 1:11-23 *The Message*

The hope to which you are called

¹¹⁻¹² It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.
Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up,
he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living,
part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

¹³⁻¹⁴ It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it
(this Message of your salvation),
found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit.
This down payment from God is the first installment on what's coming,
a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

¹⁵⁻¹⁹ That's why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in Jesus Christ
and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus,
I couldn't stop thanking God for you—
every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks.
But I do more than thank.
I ask—ask the God of, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—
to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally,
your eyes focused and clear,
so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do,
grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers,
oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—
endless energy, boundless strength!

²⁰⁻²³ All this energy issues from Christ:

God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven,
in charge of running the universe,
everything from galaxies to governments,
no name and no power exempt from his rule.
And not just for the time being, but *forever*.
He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything.

At the center of all this, Christ rules the church.
The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world;
the world is peripheral to the church.
The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts,
by which he fills everything with his presence.

Scripture: Luke 6:20-31 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

Blessings and woes

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

“You who are poor are blessed,
For the reign of God is yours.
You who hunger now are blessed,
For you'll be filled.
You who weep now are blessed,
For you'll laugh.
You are blessed when people hate you,
When they scorn and insult you
And spurn your name as evil
Because of the Chosen One.
On the day they do so,
Rejoice and be glad:
Your reward will be great in heaven,
For their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.
But woe to you rich,
For you are now receiving your comfort in full
Woe to you who are full,
For you'll go hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now,
For you'll weep in your grief.
Woe to you when all speak well of you,
For their ancestors treated the false prophets in the same way.

“To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is your, don't demand it back.

“Do to others what you would have them do to you.

Ministry of Music: “The Kontakion” with text from the Eastern Orthodox Memorial Liturgy and music by Rupert Lang sung by the Melville Choir accompanied by Colleen Weber

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, who calls your people into one beloved community,
who teaches us the way of peace through life together,
who fills us with visions of your eternal reign:
as we now celebrate the communion of saints,
pour into our hearts the power of Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **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: Saints Big and Small, but Saints

Honouring those who have come before: it's a little bit of what we did last week in marking Melville's 177th anniversary. It's also what we will do next week as we observe Remembrance Sunday, and remember those who served, and especially those who gave their lives in service for freedom and liberty.

This Sunday is All Saints Sunday. It is a time to remember and honour the cloud of witnesses, the faithful, who have inspired and moved us, offering their love and faith to those around them, and showing us the way to live a life that follows Jesus our Christ.

In our gospel reading Jesus is teaching those on the plain. He looked out over the crowd. There are three distinct groups in the crowd. The first are the great crowd of people who are there to be healed, who have ailments and demons and who want to feel the healing touch of Jesus, the healing power of Jesus, as he deals with these demons and ailments.

The second group is the group of disciples who have come because they want to hear what Jesus has to say. They are interested in learning to live the life that Jesus has talked about. And so they come seeking knowledge, seeking inspiration, seeking hope, to be able to live in a better way.

And the third group of people who come are the apostles, and we talk about the disciples and apostles and they may be mixed together in our minds. The apostles are those who were called Matthew and James and John, Simon and Andrew, Bartholemew, Thaddeus and the others. They were called not just to follow Jesus, but to do what Jesus did.

So Jesus comes down. He has been up on the heights and he comes down to the plain to bring healing and wholeness, and to teach. He needs to be among the people, with them in the midst of whatever poverty, despair, poor health, confusion that they are experiencing.

The lesson that Jesus teaches here is a familiar one in the Gospel of Luke. It is about the reversal of fortunes, the turning upside-down of the world, that so characterizes Jesus' message and ministry. Jesus doesn't candy-coat his teaching. The poor will experience the reign of God; the hungry will be filled; those who weep now will laugh; those who are hated for following Jesus will have great reward in heaven. It sounds lovely so far. Who wouldn't want those who are suffering to be relieved of their suffering

But, there is also the flip side. "Woe to you..." is a sort of warning, "watch out," "beware." Woe to you who are rich, you are now receiving your comfort in full; woe to you who are full, for you'll go hungry; woe to you who laugh now, for you'll weep in your grief; woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated false prophets the same.

It's hard to hear the second half of Jesus' lesson. If you're like me you might want to argue, I didn't ask to be born into a part of the world where riches are easy to come by, where food is plentiful, where life makes room for some laughter, where one might hear a compliment or two. But I think

as with other similar passages, what Jesus is teaching is not a prescription of what will inevitably happen, but a description of what can happen when we focus so much on the “stuff” of life.

It is easy to take the good life for granted and not to think about those others who do not enjoy wealth or good food or predominantly positive experiences in life, or those who stand for their faith, facing ridicule or even persecution by others. I believe what Jesus is calling the well-off to, and I think we would find ourselves in that category for the most part, is to be mindful and intentional about how we live; to not take for granted what we have, but to recognize that it frees us for the opportunity to help others.

The saints that we think of on this day are those who lived a purposeful life, who made a difference, even if only to a few people. We think of the saints in this place, those people who followed Andrew Melville and said the church should be a place of freedom, where people can worship as they feel it is appropriate to worship, not as some rich landowner tells them how to worship. And so coming down the hill to build Melville United Church, not in this location, but on the other side of the river in a building we showed on last week’s bulletin cover. And we think of those later people who said this church is simply not big enough, we need to move, and who came to this location and built this beautiful sanctuary, installed beautiful stained glass windows, created a remarkable space, not just for themselves, but for the community and all who followed them. We think of the people who went to Indiana in pick-up trucks with trailers and who brought back the organ that we so enjoy, and put it all together. We think of the people who took apart the choir loft and put in this platform to allow the space to be more adaptable because the acoustics are so fabulous here that we want to be able to make the space as available as we can to those who would like to listen to music or speaking. We think of the people who make meals, whether that be for the congregation itself or for people beyond, the people who work so hard to see that things like our poppies display happen. The people of this community.

We might think of the saints of our lives as not just the people who have been here and have done all that they have done to make this place so special, but the saints in our lives who have taught us and shown us how to walk a life of faith, maybe those that we have read about. Perhaps you have enjoyed the writings of Hildegard of Bingen or Catherine of Sienna or Bernard of Clairvoux, people who have come before who have had encounters with the mystery that is God and have seen fit to share it with us. Those too are our saints. Sometimes when we think of saints in those terms, it’s daunting—people who had such faith, people who devoted their whole lives, people who seemed to be so inspired and so holy. Who are we to try and emulate that? Who are we to try and even come close to living the lives that they lived?

But on the plain, there are the crowds, who are looking for healing, there are the disciples who are looking to learn how to live a life of faith, and there are the apostles who are called to do what Jesus did. They are not all the same. We are not all the same. It’s not about being “holier-than-thou.” It is about taking what we have and making use of it for the good of those around us, near or far; taking the fortune that we have been blessed with, whether it is wealth and monetary goods, or a life of joy, but making use of that for the benefit of those we encounter. That is, I think, what All Saints Day is really all about. It is remembering those who have done the great big things, and those who have done the much more intimate work of maintaining a congregation. We don’t have to have our name in lights. We don’t have to write treatises and poetry. We can help those we encounter, to a life that is a little more joyful, a little more fulfilling, a little more satisfying, a little less painful.

May we remember how our lives have been impacted so positively by our acquaintance with all kinds of saints. May we give thanks for their influence. May we live out our thanks by seeking to be a guiding light for the people in our lives. Each one of the saints we recall in our family, in our church life, in our working life, in all the ways that we encounter people, may each one stand for a blessing in our lives. May they encourage us to be a blessing in the lives of others.

None of us do this alone. We always do it in company with Jesus the Christ, the Holy Spirit, with God our Creator. And may we know that they are with us always.

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

Amen.

Hymn: Faith of Our Fathers

VU580

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- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy,
whene'er we hear that glorious word:
 faith of our fathers, holy faith,
 we will be true to you till death.

- 2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real:
 faith of our mothers, holy faith,
 we will be true to you till death.

- 3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright:
 faith for today, O living faith,
 we will be true to you till death.

- 4 Faith born of God, O call us yet;
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
 Faith born of God, O living faith,
 we will be true to you till death.

Joys and Concerns

- Happy Birthday
 - Marlene Tosh celebrates on Tues Nov. 1st
 - Judy Leitch celebrates on Tues Nov. 1st
 - Ron Steurnol celebrates on Mon Nov. 7th

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 *Adapted from a prayer for All Saints Day, Author Unknown; this content is part of GatheringWorship.ca. Used with permission.*

Thank you for witnesses of the faith, O God;
for those who have helped us hear the story of your people,
for the ways the story has touched our lives.
Thank you for the evangelists who have written the gospels;
for the power of their telling.
Thank you for the prophets who have disturbed us;
for their ability to help us examine our living.
Thank you for those people we have known
who have lived out the faith;
for the inspiration they have been to us.
Thank you for the courageous disciples
who have stood up for their beliefs; for their example.
Help us also to be witnesses to the faith.
Let our living be consistent with our preaching.
Help us to be powerful prophets.
Let our work of justice and compassion influence our society.
Help us to be disciples serving and ministering in your name.
Let us convey everywhere the graciousness of your love.
We pray for the saints in our midst . . .
For all your saints, O God, we raise our hallelujahs.

We also are mindful of all those in need,
and pray that you would bring healing and hope, strength and grace
to the world, and especially to
 those who are caught in violence,
 those who seek peace
 those who govern
to creation, and especially to
 those impacted by natural and unnatural disaster,
 those whose homes and livelihoods are affected by climate change
 the plants, animals, rocks and soil, whose vitality is being stripped
to the community around us, and especially to
 those without shelter
 those who hunger and thirst
 those who are unemployed, underemployed or overemployed
to the church, and especially
 those who follow faithfully in the footsteps of the saints
 those who are ill or alone
 those who mourn losses and loved ones
to all whom we name in our hearts...
O God, we commend all these to you,
Praying in the name of Jesus our Saviour and Christ. Amen.

thou canst hush the ocean wild;
boisterous waves obey thy will
when thou biddest them 'Be still.'
Wondrous sovereign of the sea,
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

3 When at last I near the shore,
and the fearful breakers roar
'twixt me and the peaceful land,
still supported by thy hand,
may I hear thee say to me,
'Fear not, I will pilot thee.'

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

Love your enemies,
pray for those who oppose you,
answer evil with good,
gives to those in need;
for yours is the kin-dom of 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 *Gill Le Fevre, **Gathering: Pentecost 2 2022**, p.47. Used with permission.*

The God of Jesus the Christ
give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation
to live in hope today and always.

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 blessing,
thank you for a new day to live for you.
In the company of all the saints
in heaven and on earth,
I rise to sing your praise.
Make me a worthy companion
of my ancestors in faith,
and let me love others
as I have been loved. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®**
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Creator of the stars of night,
thank you for the gift of rest.
Forgive what wrong I have done today,
and heal any wounds I have caused.
Grant me, I pray, a peaceful rest,
that I may rise with the sun to serve you with joy. Amen.