

***Celebrating***

***177 Years***

**January 22, 2023**

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| Melville United Church |
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**Melville United Church**

 **January 22, 2023**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

**Welcome**

I greet you in the name of who calls us to follow, Jesus the Christ

We gather in community today – January 22, 2023 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 and 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 of Epiphany, the season of light, when Jesus shows us the ways he is manifest, demonstrably present with, for and among us

**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.**
* **“MID-DAY MUSIC AT MELVILLE” presented and performed by pianist BRAD HALLS**

Come and enjoy a musical break in your busy day when *“Mid-Day Music at Melville”* returns on Wednesday, January 25 from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m. at Melville United Church in Fergus, when pianist Brad Halls will present a selection of songs written by Richard Rodgers, arguably the most successful composer or songs for the Broadway stage. We will actually spend the next two weeks exploring Rodgers’ marvelous music. On Jan 25, we will focus on his partnership with lyricist Lorenz Hart. Come and hear great standards like *My Funny Valentine, Bewitched, Where or When, Falling in Love with Love* and so many more. Admission to the performance is free, but a free-will donation to Melville to keep the lights on and the piano tuned are welcomed.

* Come one, Come all!! For a **Lasagne luncheon on Sunday February 19th following the service, hosted by Suzanne Flewelling and the UCW**. Lunch will be held in the Chapel and Parlour. Please join us for fun and fellowship!!
* 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.

Food bank use is up 35% over the last three years. The food bank has also calculated that a basket of food and goods that cost $39.85 in 2021 now costs $50.83, a 27.55% increase in one year. The Food Bank is asking for your financial support at this challenging time.

* **Save your Used Stamps from Incoming Mail**:  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)](http://www.giftswithvision.ca/)!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!**
* **Melville council has commissioned a Halo study in conjunction with the Trinity Centres Foundation.** This study will look to anchor Melville in Centre Wellington and determine our value to the community, as event and program space, volunteer time and effort and community well being. This will serve as a snapshot of the value Melville brings to the community in terms we can share with local governments, charitable organizations and current partners. This will serve as the foundation for further efforts to make Melville a sustainable, energetic, and integral part of Centre Wellington. Please ask a council member if you have any questions.

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:** *Jim McKean,* ***Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023****, p.43.**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)*

As we light this candle, may its warmth symbolize

the love that radiates from our very being.

**This candle represents the light of the soul.**

It also represents the light of life, the light of Christ,

that sparks us into a place of grace.

**As we light this Christ candle,**

**may its light be an inspiration for our worship this day.**

**Call to Worship:** *Adapted from a prayer by Gill Le Fevre,* ***Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023****, p.44.**Used with permission.*

In the pews or at home, we remember that worship is more than showing up.
**We seek to be inspired, that our hearts may recognize God’s presence in worship.**

May prayers and readings remind us that worship is more than sharing words.
**May we be awakened so that our hearts may receive your word for us.**

In this time of worship may we be reminded that worship is not something just to be observed.
**We come to be engaged,**

**that our hearts and lives may proclaim and enact our relationship with God.**

**Opening Prayer (in unison):** *David Sparks,* ***Prayers to Share: Year A*** *Kelowna: WoodLake, 2004, p.41. Used with permission.*

This is the moment of praise:

**praise to the God who has created us, and**

**sustains us, in joy and in sorrow.**

This is the moment of trust:

**trust in the God who remains faithful, as**

**the strong ones change, as the years change.**

This is the moment of community:

**community of those who profess their faith**

**in Jesus Christ, in word and in compassionate**

**work together.**

This is the moment of hope:

**hope for those in the midst of life’s storms,**

**hope for those who feel the grip of despair,**

**hope for those who fear the untried and the unknown.**

**This is the moment of God with God’s people.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

**Hymn:** **Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies VU336**

1 Christ whose glory fills the skies,

 Christ the true, the only light,

 sun of righteousness, arise,

 triumph o'er the shades of night.

 Dayspring from on high, be near;

 daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn

 unaccompanied by thee;

 joyless is the day's return,

 till thy mercy's beams I see,

 till they inward light impart,

 glad my eyes and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine,

 pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

 fill me, radiancy divine,

 scatter all my unbelief;

 more and more thyself display,

 shining to the perfect day.

**Call to Reconciliation** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from* ***Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1.*** *Copyright 2013, alt.*

Let us confess our sins, our shortcomings, our brokenness before God, the source of freedom and forgiveness.

**Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison)** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from* ***Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1.*** *Copyright 2013.*

**Almighty God,**

**we confess that we have not been faithful to you in
our thoughts and actions.**

**We have been selfish in our desires**

**and quarrelsome in our relationships.**

**We have allowed fear to divide us from those who
seem different,**

**and let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters.**

**Shine your light into our darkened hearts.**

**Save us from our divisive ways.**

**Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ**

**who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit
in perfect harmony. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from* ***Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A Volume 1.*** *Copyright 2013.*

God offers forgiveness to those who turn to God in true repentance.

Therefore, trust in God, who breaks the bonds of our oppression,

and covers us in mercy.

**Children’s Ministry: The Magic of Togetherness**

In one of our readings today, Paul is writing a letter to a church that he has visited in a place called Corinth. He says in the letter that he has heard that there is division and grumbling in the church. There are people that say they follow Paul, people that say they follow someone named Apollos, some who follow Peter, and others who say they follow Jesus.

So it’s like this deck of cards:

Some follow Paul

Some follow Apollos

Some follow Peter

Some follow Jesus

It’s a mess!

There are some facing up,

Some facing down,

There are even some that are back to back – those are the really crazy ones!

Paul tells them in the letter that they can’t remain divided and grumpy with each other or else the church has no meaning. It is the church of Jesus, and all who are part of the church Paul says, are all one. We follow Jesus.

**Prayer/Blessing**

**Song: Place in the Choir** by Bill Staines

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire
Some just clap their hands or paws or anything they've got

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bull frog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to do
And the old cow just goes mooooo

The dogs and the cats take up the middle
Where the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
And the old coyote howwwwwls

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire
Some just clap their hands or paws or anything they've got

Listen to the top where the little birds sing
Where the melody and the high notes ring
And the hoot owl hollers over everything
The jay bird disagrees

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day
The little duck quacks and he's on his way
The ‘possum ain't got much to say
The porcupine talks to himself, again

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire
Some just clap their hands or paws or anything they've got

It's a simple song, living song everywhere
By the fox and the ox and the grizzly bear
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above
Sly raccoon and the turtle dove

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire
Some just clap their hands or paws or anything they've got

**Prayer of Illumination** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from* ***Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1.*** *Copyright 2013, alt..*

God, illumine our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimedour eyes may see your kingdom,our ears may hear the call of Jesus,and our hearts may know the joy of your salvation. **Amen.**

**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18** *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

*Overcome divisions and find unity*

I beg you, sisters and brothers, in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ,

to agree in your message.

Let there be no factions;

rather, be united in mind and judgment.

I have been informed, my sisters and brothers,

by certain members of Chloe’s household,

that you are quarreling among yourselves.

What I mean is, one of you is saying, “I belong to Paul,”

another, “I belong to Apollos,”

still another, “I belong to Cephas,”

still another, “I belong to Christ.”

What—has Christ been divided into parts?

Was it Paul who was crucified for you?

Was it in Paul’s name that you were baptized?

Frankly, I’m thankful I didn’t baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius,

so that none of you can say you were baptized in my name!

Oh yes, I did baptize the household of Stephanas,

but no one else as far as I can remember.

The point is, Christ didn’t send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel—

not with human rhetoric, however,

lest the cross of Christ be rendered void of its meaning!

For the message of the cross is complete absurdity

to those who are headed for ruin,

but to us who are experiencing salvation,

it is the power of God.

Scripture says, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise

and thwart the learning of the learned.”

Where are the wise?

Where are the scholars?

Where are the philosophers of this age?

Has not God turned the wisdom of this world into folly?

If it was God’s wisdom that the world in its wisdom would not know God,

it was because God wanted to save those who have faith

through the foolishness of the message we preach.

For while the Jews call for miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom,

here we are preaching a Messiah nailed to a cross.

To the Jews this is an obstacle they cannot get over,

and to the Greeks it is madness—

but to those who have been called,

whether they are Jews or Greeks,

Christ is the power and the wisdom of God.

**Ministry of Music tbd**

**Scripture: Matthew 4:12-23** *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

*Jesus begins his ministry*

When Jesus heard that John has been arrested, he went back to Galilee.

He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum,

a lakeside town near the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali.

In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

The way to the sea on the far side of the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles:

The people who lived in darkness

Have seen a great light;

On those living in the land of the shadow of death

A light has dawned.”

From that time on, Jesus began proclaiming the message,

“Change your hearts and minds, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he watched two brothers—

Simon, who was called Peter, and Andrew—casting a net into the sea.

They fished by trade.

Jesus said to them, “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of humankind.”

They immediately abandoned their nets and began to follow Jesus.

Jesus walked along further and caught sight of a second pair of brothers—

James and John, ben-Zebedee.

They too were in their boat, mending their nets with their father.

Jesus called them, and immediately they abandoned both boat and father to follow him.

Jesus travelled throughout Galilee, teaching in the synagogues,

proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of heaven

and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses among the people.

**Prayer** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from* ***Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1.*** *Copyright 2013.*

God, our light and our salvation,

Jesus announced the nearness of your kingdom

and called his disciples to be fishers of women and men.

Give us courage to follow in the way of Jesus,

that our lives may bear witness to the good news

of the kingdom at hand

and our vocation serve to draw people to your salvation;

through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of
the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share

find a response that is worthy of you,

most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.

***David Sparks,*** *Summerland, B.C.*

**Reflection: The Journey of the Call**

You may have been saddened, as I was, to hear the news in the days after Christmas of the death of OPP Constable Greg Pierzchala, who stopped to help out the motorists of a car in a snowy ditch near Hagersville, only to be shot down in the road. A horrible thing anywhere at any time, but not least because it happened so close to Christmas.

Constable Pierzchala, 28, had completed his first year with the OPP, and had, mere hours before his death, been notified that he had passed his probation period with the OPP. He was a young man who had heard a call and answered it.

I think about that call, to serve, that he accepted and responded to. It wasn’t the first call to serve to which he had responded: earlier in his life he had served with the Canadian Armed forces. Both of these calls are challenging, demanding much of anyone who is called.

I think of a group of sailors from the HMCS St. John’s who do a Run the Rock in Newfoundland every summer in support of Children’s Wish. At a dinner prepared for them in Arnold’s Cove that Gordon and I were invited to attend, a retired naval officer talked about responding to the call to serve, saying that each member of the Armed Forces in that crew had written a blank cheque with their lives and signed it.

I think first responders do the same thing. They are called to serve, and they respond, regardless of the cost they may face. And as evidence of the impact of the call on their lives, we only have to look at the hundreds who came to Cst. Pierzchala’s funeral: members of the OPP, members of other police services, Canadian Armed Forces members, emergency services personnel and others.

In our gospel reading today, Jesus begins his ministry. After the impetus of the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus sets off, moving from Nazareth to Capernaum on the shores of the Sea of Galilee to share his message that the Kin-dom of Heaven has drawn near.

In responding to the call on his own life, he seeks out those who will aid him in fulfilling this call. One commentator calls them “activists” as opposed just to “supporters” and we call them apostles. Jesus sees Simon Peter and Andrew, and calls them from their fishing boats and nets. They don’t hesitate, but come immediately to follow him, to help bring this message of God’s love to those suffering the oppression of the Roman Empire.

Then he calls James and John. And whether they have seen the conversation and actions of Simon Peter and Andrew, or they have simply responded to the call on their own lives, straightaway they leave their boats and nets and their father, to join Jesus.

The call of the apostles, the call to duty and to serve in our time and place. We may not have thought of them in the same way, but there are many similarities between the call to the apostles and the call to those who become first responders and members of the armed forces.

There is the keystone call to become a police officer, giving up the life they have known to take on new responsibilities, new tasks, new relationships. But there are calls made every day for them as well.

One of those calls is to mark the passing in the line of duty, of a fellow officer. I always marvel at the hundreds of police and first responders who come to the funeral of a fallen comrade. They have answered the call to do so. We have no way of knowing what personal reasons they may have for coming, but respond they do.

So it is with Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John. They were likely contracted to a local representative of the Roman Empire, to deliver so many fish at such-and-such a price in a set timeframe. Their decision to get up and leave that life and those strictures may have been motivated by freedom, a desire for release, from the torments of such backbreaking, unrewarding work, from the oppression of the Roman Empire. For James and John is the added consideration that they worked with or for their father. Perhaps there were relationship issues that contributed to their decision. We will never know their particular and personal reasons; we only know that they did.

Another similarity is that following the call is not a destination, it is a journey. Within that call to serve are myriad little calls to follow Jesus in whatever he is doing, to step up for whatever is put before them. Some of those calls to follow Jesus come from Jesus himself; some from those who seek him out for healing, for teaching, for food; some from those who oppose them.

For police officers the calls within that larger keystone call come daily, even hourly, as they are dispatched to accidents and mishaps, threats to the public’s safety or lives; as they respond to the call to represent the service or force to which they have committed themselves; even as they go about their personal lives.

Both the apostles and first responders hear that daily call to serve and they respond, somedays more clearly and competently than others. We remember Simon Peter faltering on the water, the apostles wondering why Jesus is talking to the woman at the well, the gut reaction to send those hungry crowds away.

And so what does all this speak to our hearts? We too are called, not likely to be police or first responders, not likely to be apostles, but to be disciples who follow Jesus. We are called to do our part to draw the kin-dom of heaven nearer. It is not a response to a call that is an event. It’s not a one-and-done type of scenario. The call that Jesus has for us is a call to follow, and to commit ourselves to the way of life of his followers. The challenge is that we may not feel up responding to the call on any given day. We may not respond especially well.

But the good news is that it is not a call to perfection, it is not a call to single-handedly drag the people to the kin-dom of heaven, nor the kin-dom of heaven to the people. Jesus says, “my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” It is a call to commit ourselves, in all our imperfections, in all our fallible humanness, to the work of bringing about the kin-dom. May we hear the call of Jesus and respond with our whole hearts.

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

Amen.

**Hymn: Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore VU563 OneLicense #A-740237**

1 Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore

 looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;

 you only asked me to follow humbly.

 O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,

 and while smiling, have spoken my name;

 now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;

 by your side I will seek other seas.

2 You know so well my possessions;

 my boat carries no gold and no weapons;

 - you will find there my nets and labour.

 O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,

 and while smiling, have spoken my name;

 now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;

 by your side I will seek other seas.

3 You need my hands, full of caring

 through my labours to give others rest,

 and constant love that keeps on loving.

 O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,

 and while smiling, have spoken my name;

 now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;

 by your side I will seek other seas.

4 You, who have fished other oceans,

 ever longed for by souls who are waiting,

 my loving friend, as thus you call me.

 O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,

 and while smiling, have spoken my name;

 now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;

 by your side I will seek other seas.

**Joys and Concerns**

* Happy Birthday
* Bruce Parkin celebrated 50 years on Wed. Jan. 18th
* Barbara Lynden celebrated 90 years on Fri. Jan. 20th
* Mary Lloyd celebrated Sat. Jan. 21st
* Marg Shortt celebrates Thurs. Jan. 26th
* Last but not least: Jim Nevett celebrated on Thurs. Dec. 29th

**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 33****, p. 2789. Copyright 2019, alt.*

God of light and life,

God of hope and purpose and healing,

we give thanks for such signs as there are

of your spirit at work even yet in our world;

signs that the coming of your kingdom

is not as far off as it sometimes feels.

We give thanks for those people whose presence

lights up our lives, because of their gentleness,

their joy, their compassion, their simple goodness.

For those who have dedicated their lives

to the work of healing and reconciliation;

those brave enough to speak truth to power,

sometimes at great risk to themselves.

For those who walk with others

through the valley of death’s shadow;

those who make life fuller and more joyful

by sharing the creative gifts that come from you.

But we would be hard pushed, O God,

to say that your kingdom is any closer now

than it was when Jesus proclaimed it by the lakeside,

in the synagogue, in the town squares of Capernaum.

Too many are sitting in the darkness still;

death still casts a long shadow,

and holds many in its thrall.

And so we pray, as Jesus said we should,

for the time to come when your name is honoured,

and your will done here on earth, as perfectly

as we imagine it to be done in heaven.

And in the meantime, we ask your blessing

on those who, like John,

have been wrongfully arrested or even killed

for being true to what they believe;

on those who, like Jesus,

have had to move from one place to another

in order to feel safe;

on those who, like the crowds who clamoured

for his touch, are sick and desperate for healing

of body, mind and soul.

God, whose light broke into the world’s darkness

once, a long time ago, in a man called Jesus,

may that same light shine on us and in us

and through us for the world’s healing and our own,

and all to the glory of your name.

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****: Dignity Is on the Menu**



Many of us sit down to good home-cooked meals and can afford to go out for dinner from time to time. We’re able to prepare elaborate dinners at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our daily experience doesn’t include standing in line, tray in hand, for every single meal.

That’s why the special dinners like Café Cinq-Zéro-Sept hosts are so important. Centre 507 is an Ottawa-based Mission & Service partner. Several times a year, the adult drop-in centre sets up a small room for a special fine-dining meal with gourmet food, decorations, and candlelight. For just $2, participants have their choice of meal accompanied by full service and great company.

“We realized that people in our community struggling with poverty had to wait in line a long time for a meal. When they were served, they weren’t given any choice and felt pressured to leave so that the next person could be served. That’s why we started Café Cinq-Zéro-Sept,” says Richard LeBlanc, Centre 507’s Executive Director. “We saw a real change in how people felt about themselves after experiencing this kind of a meal. We wanted this dining experience to become the norm rather than the exception.”

While COVID-19 has been challenging, it has also helped the drop-in take a step toward achieving their goal. “One of the great things that happened when COVID hit was that we had to start a system where everyone sat down and was served,” says LeBlanc.

Centre 507 now serves 25 people at sit-down meals and provides 150 people with meals to go each day. The café has incorporated a training program where participants learn to be servers, too. “We are taking the next step toward achieving our goal. We aren’t going back to line-ups after the pandemic,” vows LeBlanc.

*Thank you for giving generously through*[*Mission & Service*](https://united-church.ca/donate)*. Your support helps create a world where everyone has enough food, served with dignity.*

**Offering Invitation** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from* ***Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1.*** *Copyright 2013.*

God, the source of all good things,has given us what we need.In joyful response, let us offer our gifts,the fruit of our labors, and the dedication of our heartsfor loving service in the name of Christ.

**Offering Hymn: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU541**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**praise God, all creatures high and low;**

**give thanks to God in love made known:**

**Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

**Offering Prayer (in unison)** *Spill the Beans Resources Team,* ***spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 33****, p. 88. Copyright 2019.*

**Living God, we bring our gifts of money,**

**but if Jesus is our best guide as to what**

**you most want from us,**

**then maybe that is not it at all.**

**He did not ask anyone for money—**

**that was to go to the poor.**

**He wanted far less,**

**and a great deal more.**

**“Give up everything safe and familiar”, he said,**

**“and come, and follow me.”**

**What is he asking of us today?**

***Silence***

**God, give us grace and courage**

**to offer not what we think we can spare,**

**but what you know we need to relinquish**

**in order to be free to follow.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn: Blest Be the Tie That Binds VU602**

1 Blest be the tie that binds

 our hearts in Christian love;

 the unity of heart and mind

 is like to that above.

2 Before our Maker's throne

 we pour our ardent prayers;

 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,

 our comforts and our cares.

3 We share each other's woes,

 each other's burdens bear;

 and often for each other flows

 the sympathizing tear.

4 This glorious hope revives

 our courage on the way;

 that we shall live in perfect love

 in God's eternal day.

**Commissioning** *Spill the Beans Resources Team,* ***spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages****, Issue 33, p. 90. Copyright 2019.*

Into the world

**we follow you.**

Into the questions of life and journeys of hope

**we follow you.**

Into the traditions of our community’s past and unknown future

**we follow you.**

Into the heart of our congregation and meeting places

**we follow you.**

Into life, all of life,

**we follow you.**

**Change the Light**

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

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

See how it is only in one place?

*\*Change Light\**

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

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

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May the grace of Christ who calls us go with you.May the power of the Holy Spirit who empowers us sustain you.May the salvation of God who loves us give you peace.

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Jesus our Saviour, you call me to be a faithful disciple. Enable me to hear your voice above the distractions of this day,to see each challenge as an opportunity for faithful witness, and to offer myself in obedient service in all that I do. Amen.

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Your face, O Christ, have I sought this day and your beauty have I beheld.I have seen you in the face of the stranger, and beheld your beauty in creation.Thank you, and keep me aware. Amen.