



*Celebrating
177 Years*



January 22, 2023

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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 29, 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 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 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.
- Come and enjoy a **musical break** in your busy day at “Mid-Day Music at Melville” on Wednesday, February 1st from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m. when pianist Brad Halls will present the second half of his two-week examination of songs composed by Richard Rodgers, the most prolific and successful Broadway composer of the 20th century. The performance on February 1st will feature songs that Rodgers wrote in collaboration with lyricist Oscar Hammerstein with selections from their famous musicals including Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific, The King and I and The Sound of Music. There is no admission fee, but a voluntary contribution to Melville to keep the lights on and the piano tuned is always welcome.
- **Upcoming Worship:** The Social Justice and Outreach Committee will lead worship on February 5th with a focus on Black History Month. Their guest speaker will be Millicent Gordon, founder of the Centre Wellington Black Committee. Plan to come out to hear her informative presentation.
- **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)! 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!**
- **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)

The candle is lit.

This is a day when light is important.

Light of new insight.

Light to overcome shadows and despair.

Light of hope.

Light of promise.

May this candle and the light it produces
be a symbol and sign of all of these things.

Call to Worship: *Wendy MacLean, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p.43. Used with permission.*

When the ways of the world wear us down
with constant demands or unrealistic expectations,
we are invited to find refuge in God's grace.

Together, in worship, this is where we find our home.

When the morning sun is reflected off the snow
and the skies open like a blue gift of joy,
we are invited to notice God's creating presence.

Together in worship, we are being made new.

Come, find refuge, find hope.

Experience the Spirit naming you Beloved.

Together, in worship, let our souls sing praise.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Della DeMoss, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p.45. Used with permission.*

Gracious God, we look at headlines and read of great sorrow, pain, division, and fear.

Your word says:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

We hear of countless lives lost due to wars, accidents, and sickness.

Your word says:

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

We have seen how world events have torn apart churches, families, communities, countries.

Your word says:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Where in the headlines of today is the good news,
the promise of your kin-dom, a better tomorrow?

Your word says:

Seek justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with your God.

We are here seeking mercy and hope in your presence.

Your word says:

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will discover God.

May we discover your presence among us today, Gracious God. Amen.

Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts

MV12 OneLicense #A-740237

1. Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.
2. Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.
3. Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.
4. Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve,
steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.
5. Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,
our mind, our strength, our all, come touch us with your grace.

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,
for the Holy One delights in blessing
those who seek to walk with God.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Karen Boivin, **Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022-2023**, p.47. Used with permission.*

We come before you today, O God, thinking about healing.

We all have some part of us in need of healing:

in our bodies,

in our minds,

in our souls,

from our past and in our present,

in our hearts and in our thoughts.

Some hurts we carry on our sleeve,

some can be coaxed from us,

others we show only to our nearest and dearest,

and some we will need you to unearth for us.

Help us to understand, trust, and be open to

your many ways of healing as we open our hearts to your love:

(a time of silent prayer)

Amen.

Words of Assurance *Tony Tuck, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022-2023, p.47, alt. Used with permission.*

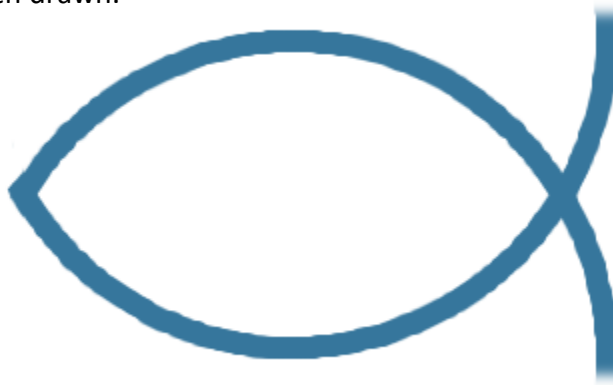
God's love is forever and extends to the heavens.
Each one of you is a forgiven and beloved child of God.
Let this love and the Spirit continue to move and guide you.
Be a shining light in this world. Amen.

Children's Ministry: Fish in the Sand

When Jesus started his ministry, he wanted some people to help him, to teach them so they could help him teach and heal others. He also wanted some people to travel with him to keep him company.

So he asked some people to come and follow him. The people he asked first were fisherfolk. Simon Peter and Andrew were brothers who were throwing a net into the water to catch fish. Jesus said "follow me and I will make you fish for people." And as soon as they heard, they stopped fishing, left their net on the shore of the lake and followed him. Then he came to two more brothers, James and John, the sons of a man named Zebedee. All three were fisherfolk and were back from fishing and were repairing their nets. When Jesus asked James and John to follow him, they left their nets and their boats and their father to go with Jesus.

The fish became a sign for people who were Christians to be able to find one another. At that time Christians were not well liked by the people in charge of the land they lived in. They needed a secret way to find and communicate with other Christians without the authorities finding out. A Christian would draw one part of the fish in the sand with their sandal. If the other person was a Christian, they would know that was part of a fish, and they would draw the other part of the fish so it was clear they were a Christian too. If the other person wasn't a Christian, they wouldn't even realize that part of a fish had been drawn.



Now the fish is a symbol of the Christian church. One good reason for having the fish as a symbol is because the job of the church is to fish for people.

Prayer/Blessing

Children Leave AFTER the Hymn!

Song: There Were Twelve Disciples by George A. Minor

There were twelve disciples,
Jesus called to help him,
Simon Peter, Andrew,
James, his brother John,
Philip, Thomas, Matthew,
James the son of Alpheus,
Thaddeus, Simon, Judas,
and Bartholomew.

REFRAIN

He has called us too, He has called us too,
We are His disciples, We his work must do.
He has called us too, He has called us too,
They were His disciples, We can be one too.

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..*

Holy God, your blessings are abundant,
and your wisdom exceeds our grasp.
Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day,
that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers,
sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak,
or persecuted,
and revealing to all your glory. **Amen.**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

God's foolishness is better than human wisdom

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.
For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.
Consider your calling, sisters and brothers.
Not many of you were wise by human standards,
not many were influential,
and surely not many were well-born.
God chose those whom the world considers foolish to shame the wise
and singled out the weak of this world to shame the strong.
The world's lowborn and despised, those who count for nothing,
were chosen by God to reduce to nothing those who were something.
In this way no one should boast before God.
God has given you life in Christ Jesus
and has made Jesus our wisdom, our justice, our sanctification and our redemption.
This is just as it is written, "Let the one would boast, boast in our God."

Ministry of Music "Let Your Light Shine" words and music by Mary McDonald sung by the Melville United Choir accompanied by Colleen Weber

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

Blessed are the poor in spirit

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside,
and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them:

Blessed are those who are poor in spirit:

the kin-dom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who are mourning:

they will be consoled.

Blessed are those who are gentle:

they will inherit the land.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice:

They will have their fill.

Blessed are those who show mercy to others:

They will be shown mercy.

Blessed are those whose hearts are clean"

They will see God.

Blessed are those who work for peace:

They will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of their struggle for justice;

The kin-dom of heaven is theirs.

"You are fortunate when others insult you and persecute you,
and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great:

they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.

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

Redeeming God, you come to us in Christ
to rescue us from slavery
and lead us out of captivity.
Guide us by the wisdom of the cross,
and show us how to live a life of justice, love,
and blessedness. **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 Blessing of Blessedness

There's a thing that happens when I listen to the Beatitudes. I hear "Blessed are the pure in heart" or "Blessed are those whose hearts are clean" and I think a blessing from Christ or God **depends upon me** being pure in heart. And so I might say to myself, "Is my heart clean enough? I should try to try to have a clean heart." Or "blessed are those who work for peace." "Well then, I have to make more of an effort about peace if I want to be blessed, if I want to be called one of the children of God."

And so on, until I get to "blessed are those who are mourning." I really don't want to mourn, even if it means a blessing, although it is good to know that if I am mourning, I will be consoled. I'm also not quite sure how to approach the blessing for being persecuted. Do I want to be persecuted, even in the struggle for justice, so I can have a blessing? If there was a blessing for discomfort, I'd be right there.

Maybe it's just me, but I have a feeling others of us feel the same way—I'll never measure up enough to be in God's good books, I'll never experience a blessing. Theologian David Lose talks about this difficulty with the Beatitudes, and wonders if it isn't symptomatic of a larger problem—that we are far less eager to be blessed by God, than God is to bless us. Or to put it another way, we may struggle to believe that God wants to bless us in the first place. Maybe despite all we've heard and shared, we still think, in our heart of hearts, of God as a stern, demanding task-master and judge. Maybe it's hard to think of God freely giving blessings. Maybe it's easier to imagine that God has requirements, which we must satisfy first, before a blessing will be forthcoming. It's not how God is described or acts in the Bible, but it's still a belief that lots of us hold tightly to.

David Lose has another thought as well: perhaps it's that "we know ourselves too well to feel worthy of that grace. After all, we are intimately familiar with our faults and limitations, or insecurities and failures. And knowing ourselves this well – and knowing that God knows us even better! – we may find it hard to believe God loves us unconditionally." There always seem to be conditions in our world. We will succeed if we work hard and, we will have to live with the consequences when we don't. "There are no free rides in this world." It becomes hard, in the face of all this, to believe, to even imagine, that God behaves differently, showering us with blessing without us have done anything, earned anything or somehow deserved it.

But, David Lose insists, Jesus isn't setting up conditions or terms, but rather is just plain **blessing** people—and especially people at the bottom of the heap: the poor, the downtrodden, the very vulnerable people. He does this to help people understand the nature of God. God shows up where you least expect. God shows up in mercy and blessing with and for the poor in spirit, with and for those who hunger and thirst for justice, with and for those who are persecuted because they identify themselves as followers of Jesus. God is benevolent, loving and cares deeply for us.

Maybe we have trouble understanding just what to be blessed means. We are told that the Greek word for “blessed,” *makarios*, may mean fortunate, happy or well off. But does that really help? If we focus on “blessed” itself, the English word, there are still many similar meanings “divinely or supremely favoured; fortunate; blissfully happy or contented; bringing happiness and thankfulness.”

That still isn't very satisfactory. So what if, instead of trying to determine the **meaning** of the word, we focused on what it **feels** like to be blessed. As we said before, blessing can't be something you pursue; it can only be a gift.

Perhaps being blessed feels like having someone's unconditional regard; that you are not and will not be alone, but will be accompanied wherever you go; that you are more than the sum of your parts or your past experiences. Blessing feels like you have worth—not because of something you have done or might do, but just because of who you are, just because you deserve it.

I was listening to CBC one day recently, I think to q, when the subject of a new social media app came up. It's called Gas, and it's aimed at high school students. It's called Gas because it's a way of gassing people up, filling them with good feelings. The way it works is that friends, people who know a student, post affirmations to their profile or their wall. The people who have made the affirmations are not disclosed to the person being affirmed. For the low, low price of \$8.99 **per week**, you can have the added benefit of being able to see who is sending the affirmations. The point of the app is to make people feel validated and liked. But many of the students asked about the app said it more often generates comparisons and anxiety as people share the number of validations they have received. The validations and affirmations seem hollow and empty.

On the flip side, there is blame. We see it everywhere. It's the politician's fault, or the official's fault, or the teacher's fault or the parent's fault or the kid's fault. From David Lose, “Blame is a way of discharging pain and disappointment without taking any responsibility.” And “Sometimes I think we've been taught to pursue happiness, settle for affirmation and – when neither of these work out – relapse into blame.”

So instead of empty affirmations and corrosive blame, I encourage us to try blessing: God's unconditional regard for us, assurance to accompany us, power to help us persevere and flourish and promise that we deserve love, honour, and respect.

Perhaps if we hear often enough that God thinks so much of us as to bless us just for being, we will begin to believe what we are called, that we are blessed and as we come to believe God's blessing, we will become God's blessing in and to the world.

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

- 1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit,
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow,
they shall be consoled.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessed are you, holy are you!
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.

- 2 Blest are they, the lowly ones,
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst,
they shall have their fill.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessed are you, holy are you!
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.

- 3 Blest are they who show mercy,
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart,
they shall see God.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessed are you, holy are you!
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.

- 4 Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith,
the glory of God is theirs.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessed are you, holy are you!
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.

- 5 Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Blessed are you, holy are you!
 Rejoice and be glad!
 Yours is the kingdom of God.

Joys and Concerns

- Happy Birthday
 - Bruce **Perkin** celebrated 50 years on Wed. Jan. 18th
 - Bonny Nevett celebrates Sun Jan 29th
 - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint celebrates Mon Jan 30

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. 97. Copyright 2019, alt.*

Loving and generous God,
we have so many blessings for which to thank you.
And yet it can be often hard to see these
in the midst of all that clutters our lives:
the worries we have,
the people for whom we have concerns,
the world that seems set on being in constant turmoil,
and yet we have heard Jesus' words of blessing:
a reminder that you are in all things
and we do not deal with this alone.

And so, we bring to you now
the worries, the people we love and the world in general:
we bring them for your care and blessing.

May those who feel worn down by life
know again of your love.

Pause

May those who mourn
know again your comfort.

Pause

May those who lack self-worth
know they are everything to you.

Pause

May those who want to serve you
know that they are appreciated.

Pause

May those who strive to show your love
know that they are also deeply loved.

Pause

May those who are good and kind
know that this does not go unnoticed.

Pause

May those who work to bring peace
know that you have their backs.

Pause

May those who face persecution
know that in you they can find strength.

Pause

O Lord, hear our prayers.

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: Learning Racism at a Young Age Mission Story:



Learning Racism at a Young Age

Photo: kal9/Stock



The following is an excerpt from a [blog](#) written by Adele Halliday. Your Mission & Service gifts support anti-racism programs and initiatives like the ones Halliday develops as the United Church's Anti-Racism and Equity Lead to help all of us be in deeper, more equitable relationships with one another.

The name calling started when she was about three years old. They were racial slurs, and names, and taunts. My child, my own flesh and blood, was being ostracized for having Black skin. The people slinging the insults? Other children on the playground....

She may not have necessarily always understood the particular terms that they used, but she knew that it was related to her Blackness and her racial identity. And this deeply wounded her tender heart....

Despite all of our intentional modelling, teaching, and proactive actions, our child is still already developing internalized racism and inferior notions of herself.

The children who were taunting her were offering explicit and overt notions of racism, but they were children! They had not even started primary school! And yet, the children had already learned behaviour (at home, or elsewhere in society) that Whiteness is superior. And, they had the audacity to vocalize that to an innocent little child....

This is in part why I am so deeply committed to dismantling racism in all its forms—racism is damaging and destructive for all people in society. It reinforces negative notions for people of colour. I live it in a particular way because of my own racial identity, as a Black person who has lived with racial injustice my entire life.

The systemic nature of racism is something that cannot be ignored.... This effort to overcome racism is a continuous effort. And I am committed to this work for the long haul.

I hope that you will be too.

Please take the time to read Halliday's [full blog post](#) about her experience.

Offering Invitation *Susan Ivany, **Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022-2023**, p. 49, alt. Used with permission.*

Our offering is a sign of our confidence in the ministry we share.
It's a sign of our gratitude for the blessings we've received
and our heartfelt intent to pay forward
those blessings as we are able.

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. 96. Copyright 2019.*

God of all goodness,
God of all blessings,
it should be so much easier to count our blessings
and yet we spend more time
counting that which we do not have.

**Here in our gifts
are tokens of our love for you and your church.
May we in our service
and in our giving of time and money
be a blessing to you and the church. Amen**

Hymn: Put Peace into Each Other's Hands MV173 OneLicense #A-740237

1. Put peace into each other's hands,
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.
2. Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.
3. Put peace into each other's hands
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.
4. Give thanks for strong – yet tender – hands,
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short, let hands speak out,
the heights of love expressing.
5. Reach out in friendship, stay with faith,
in touch with those around you.
Put peace into each other's hands;
the peace that sought and found you.

Commissioning *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 33, p. 98. Copyright 2019.*

Be a blessing in the world.
Be a word that brings life.
Be a community that speaks love.
Be God's people wherever you are.
Be the blessing of the kingdom.

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 and I invite you to change your light at home
Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.
Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

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

May Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
shine brightly on your path
as you walk the way of justice and peace.
And the blessing of God—
the Creator, Healer, and Giver of Life—
bless you and keep you always.

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

Blessed God, I yearn to see your vision of justice, love, and peace
made real for me this day.
Open my eyes to the way of love
that I may see your brilliant light
shining into the hidden places of my heart
and the darkened corners of the world. Amen.

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Loving God, you led me in the way of life this day
and now call me to the way of rest.
I give thanks for your light that illumined my path today.
Now, it is night.
As you beckon me to enter into holy darkness
where I am one with you in your realm of uncreated light,
I open to you in peace. Amen.