



JESUS MAFA. Transfiguration, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48307> [retrieved February 15, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

**February 19, 2023**

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

Youth Faith Formation

Ministry of Music Team

Office Administrator

Custodian

Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

Office hours

E-Mail

Web Site

Pastoral Care Numbers

Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Naomi Flint

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Lynda Rivet

Robert Mitchell, Suzanne Flewelling

Allan Hons

Alison Rainford, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.

[secretary@melvilleunited.com](mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com)

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

709-682-8756, 519-843-3841

**Melville United Church**  
**February 19, 2023**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**

---

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

**Prelude** *offered by the Red Suspenders and the Autumn Tones*

*"It is Well with My Soul" – words by Horatio Spafford music by Philip Bliss*

*"Wade in the Water" – spiritual, arranged by Jay Althouse*

### **Welcome**

I greet you in the name of whom God calls Beloved, Jesus the Christ.

We gather in community today – February 19, 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 on this Transfiguration Sunday, when Jesus is called God's beloved child, is shown to be radiant in his glory and turns his gaze to Jerusalem and his coming death.

### **Announcements**

- On Monday, February 6, a series of **powerful earthquakes struck southern Türkiye (Turkey) near the border with Syria**. The quakes caused extensive damage and loss of lives. At time of writing, the death toll has surpassed 20,000 people, and thousands more are missing. The winter weather makes the situation even more dire for people who are without shelter, warm clothes, blankets, water, and food. Some of the people affected by the earthquake were already displaced by conflict. Today, people need emergency shelter, blankets, mattresses, clean water, food, and hygiene items. We join Mission & Service partners the Middle East Council of Churches, ACT Alliance, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the Humanitarian Coalition to show tangible support for the people of Türkiye and Syria. You can be a part of these efforts by donating now at <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/earthquake-turkiye>. Thank you for your generosity.
- **2022 Donation Receipts for Income Tax** is ready, and they will be available at the back of the Sanctuary! If you would like to come by the church during the week to pick it up, please contact the office before the end of day Thursday, February 23rd otherwise it will be mailed on the 24th.
- Come one, Come all!! For a **Lasagne luncheon today 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!
- **Donations to Garage Sales** - If you know of anyone moving, down-sizing or de-cluttering, please keep Melville and our Garage Sales in mind. Thanks, Lorna

- **Friday and Sunday Coffee** - We encourage people to sign-up to host either a Friday or Sunday Coffee Time. It is not difficult! We'd be pleased to show you how. Sign-up sheets are at the Parlour Door. Please speak to Lorna Bevcar or Marg Frayne.
- **"MID-DAY MUSIC AT MELVILLE" presented and performed by pianist BRAD HALLS**  
*"Mid-Day Music at Melville"* returns on Wednesday, February 22 from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m. at Melville United Church in Fergus, when pianist Brad Halls will present songs written by Burt Bacharach, one of the most successful composers of popular songs of the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and who passed away very recently. Most often in collaboration with lyricist Hal David, Bacharach was the winner of numerous Grammy Awards, two Academy Awards and Tony Award. His hit songs include *Do You Know the Way to San Jose, Always Something There to Remind Me, Close to You, What the World Needs Now is Love* and many more. There is absolutely no admission fee, but a voluntary contribution to Melville to keep the heat and lights on and the piano tuned is always welcome.
- **Let's celebrate our Melville UC Family along with Hope Springs UC on Family Day Weekend!**  
 SUNDAY, Feb. 19 from 2-4pm, come join us at Hope Springs UC ([75 Geddes St, Elora](#)) Board Games and Snacks for all ages (0 - 100!)  
 Due to a lack of snow, tobogganing has been cancelled.
- **Week of Guided Prayer and Spiritual Exploration – February 26 to March 4, 2023** – Creating Space for Sacred Times and Places – Presented by the Guelph Ecumenical Guild of Ignatian Spiritual Direction  
 The Week of Guided Prayer is an opportunity to learn more about prayer, explore your spirituality, and develop and deepen a relationship with God. Listening, reflection and awareness are at the heart of the Week. Information and registration at <https://guidedprayer.webs.com/> . Register by February 20, 2023
- **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, Friday March 3rd., 2023, 2:00 P.M.** at St. John's Anglican Church, 36 Henderson Street, Elora. The service was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan and the theme is "I have Heard About Your Faith". Plan to attend this global event where we all gather together on March 3rd., with a mission to empower Christians to pursue justice, peace, and reconciliation. A few members of Melville will be participating in this service. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.
- 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.  
**Most needed items** (as of February 15<sup>th</sup>):  

Pasta Sauce	Mac & Cheese Side Dishes	Chunky Soup (Habitant)
Small Canned Soup	Pasta Side Dishes	Canned Vegetables
Cold Cereal	Peanut Butter Juice	Jam
		Canned Salmon

**Well-stocked with:**  

Pasta	Spaghetti	Tomato Soup	Canned Chickpeas and Lentils
-------	-----------	-------------	------------------------------
- **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 \(opens in a new tab\)](https://GiftsWithVision.ca) today!**

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

**Land Acknowledgement** *Peter Chynoweth, Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022, p.33. Used with permission.*

We acknowledge that this land on which we gather for worship is the traditional land of the people of Petun,

Haudenosaunee, (Hoe-day-no-show-nee)

Anishinabewaki,

Mississaugas of the Credit,

Odawa and

Mississauga nations.

We acknowledge that we live on this land as people who have agreed to share the care and use of this land as a result of treaties—the Simcoe Patent-Treaty 4, 1793 and the Haldimand Treaty, 1784—that outline the rights and responsibilities associated with our place in this land. May we be people who remember this with thanksgiving and respect.

**Lighting the Christ Candle/Call to Worship/Opening Prayer:** *Beth W. Johnston, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p.42, 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)*

When the light of your love grows dim,  
**may this light rekindle the flame so that love lights up the room.**

*The Christ candle is lit.*

**Call to Worship:**

Jesus went to the mountain and was changed.

Transformed.

**But change is hard for us.**

You call us, O God, to change our lives.

**But change is hard for us.**

You call us, O God, to change our hearts.

**But change is hard for us.**

You call us, O God, to change our thinking.

**But change is hard for us.**

Open our lives, our hearts, our thinking,  
**Open us, O God, to your loving changes.**

**Opening Prayer (in unison):**

**God of power and wonder,  
we are awestruck by the glory of your presence.  
We rejoice at what we can see;  
we marvel at what we cannot see.  
You dazzle us with your brightness;  
you overshadow us as with a great cloud.  
Loving, protecting, challenging, nurturing,  
you strengthen and transform us.  
May we may love and serve you, in all that we are and do.  
Glory be to you. Amen.**

**Hymn: Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven                      VU240**

- 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,  
    glad of heart your carols raise;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
    who, like me, should sing God's praise.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
    Praise the Maker all your days!
- 2 Praise God for the grace and favour  
    shown our forebears in distress;  
God is still the same forever,  
    slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
    Sing our Maker's faithfulness!
- 3 Like a loving parent caring,  
    God knows well our feeble frame;  
gladly all our burdens bearing,  
    still to countless years the same.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
    All within me, praise God's name!
- 4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;  
    blows the wind and it is gone;  
but, while mortals rise and perish,  
    God endures unchanging on.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
    Praise the high eternal one.
- 5 Angels, teach us adoration,  
    you behold God face to face;  
sun and moon and all creation,  
    dwellers all in time and space.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
    Praise with us the God of 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.*

Trusting in God's steadfast love,  
let us confess our sin, our shortcomings, our brokenness, all that stands between us and God.

**Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison)**

**God of Transfiguration,  
you meet us in the ordinary  
as well as the extraordinary moments of life.**

**We seek you in the valleys  
and on the mountaintops.**

**Yet we admit  
that too often our eyes are blind to your presence,  
too often our ears are deaf to your call.**

**When you reach out to us  
through the cries of the hungry and homeless,  
too often our hearts shrink from your touch.**

**Forgive us, we pray  
and set us free to love and serve.**

### **Words of Assurance**

God made us;  
we are creatures made in the image of the Divine.  
Christ has redeemed us;  
we are a people forgiven and blessed,  
The Holy Spirit sustains us;  
be open to the future with confidence and hope.  
Be assured that whenever we confess in the name of Christ,  
God is there to bless and guide you.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **Children's Ministry: Fiona's Transfiguration**



By <https://www.shreksadventure.com/london/meet-the-shrek-family/>, Fair use,  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=54150508>

Fiona, the daughter of King Harold and Queen Lillian, was under a spell in which she was a princess by day and an ogre by night. Love's first kiss was to allow her to take "loves true form". She very much expected to end up a beautiful princess married to her prince charming. But the prince who came for her (Lord Farquaad) was far from charming and the ogre Shrek, who actually rescued her mainly to force Lord Farquaad to give him back his swamp home, was loving and kind. At her forced wedding to Lord Farquaad just before the kiss, Shrek appears to claim her for himself. The sun sets during the confrontation turning her into an ogre who Lord Farquaad finds hideous. After a tussle in which a dragon ate Lord Farquaad, Shrek proclaims his love for Fiona. With their kiss she rises into the air with all sorts of lighting

effects. When she comes back, she is an ogre. At first she is dismayed, but Shrek assures her that she is beautiful to him and is indeed in “love’s true form.” They head off to happy a life in the swamp.

In a whirl of light and special effects the beautiful princess becomes an large, loving ogre. Similarly, in a flash of light, Jesus who has been revealed to be the son of God “sets his face toward Jerusalem” claiming his task of suffering love.

### **Prayer/Blessing**

#### **Hymn: I’ve Got Peace Like a River**

I've got peace like a river

I've got peace like a river

I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got peace like a river

I've got peace like a river

I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got faith like a mountain

I've got faith like a mountain

I've got faith like a mountain in my soul

I've got faith like a mountain

I've got faith like a mountain

I've got faith like a mountain in my soul

I've got joy like a fountain

I've got joy like a fountain

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul

I've got joy like a fountain

I've got joy like a fountain

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul

I've got love like an ocean

I've got love like an ocean

I've got love like an ocean in my soul

I've got love like an ocean

I've got love like an ocean

I've got love like an ocean in my soul

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

God our light,

make us attentive to your Word

as to a lamp shining in a dark place,

that seeing your truth we may live faithful lives

until that great day dawns

and the morning star rises in our hearts. **Amen.**

**Scripture: Exodus 24:12-18** (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

*God calls Moses up the mountain*

Then YHWH said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, and I will give you the Law and the commandments, which I have inscribed on stone tablets, for you to teach them with."

So Moses and Joshua, his attendant, went up the mountain of God, saying to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return. Aaron and Hur will be with you; if there is dispute among you, turn to them.'

Then Moses went up the mountain to where the clouds engulfed it. The glory of YHWH then came to dwell on Mount Sinai. The cloud covered the mountain for six days; on the seventh day, God called to Moses out of the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of YHWH looked like an all-consuming fire at the top of the mountain. Moses climbed the mountain until he disappeared into the cloud, and stayed there for forty days and forty nights.

**Ministry of Music** *offered by the Red Suspenders and the Autumn Tones*

"Hymn to Freedom" – *music by Oscar Peterson lyrics by Harriette Hamilton arranged by Paul Read*

"You Raise Me Up" – *music by Lowland lyrics by Brendan Graham*

**Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9** (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

*Jesus transfigured on the mountain*

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain to be alone with them. And before their eyes, Jesus was transfigured—his face becoming as dazzling as the sun and his clothes as radiant as light.

Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said, "Rabbi, how good that we are here! With your permission I will erect three shelters here—one for you, one for Moses and One for Elijah!"

Peter was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Out of the cloud came a voice which said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favour rests. Listen to him!" When they heard this the disciples fell forward on the ground, overcome with fear. Jesus came toward them and touched them, saying, "Get up! Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they did not see anyone but Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountainside, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone about this until the Chosen One has risen from the dead,"

**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 of majesty and might,  
you have blessed us with revelations of your glory.  
Give us the gift of faith,



that we may hear your voice for ourselves  
and see Jesus Christ revealed to us  
that we may stand on our own without fear. **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: Paradox**

The account of Jesus' transfiguration in Matthew's Gospel points out to us a paradox, the paradox that underlies the whole nature of both God and Jesus.

The disciples might have thought that they were going with Jesus to pray, to have a quiet time, as he often did when heading into the wilderness. Then they see him transfigured before their very eyes. What has happened to their friend? And then Elijah and Moses are there. What should they do? Clearly something extraordinary is going on.

Peter has, just before this day, declared that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. In the wake of his recognition of the Messiah, Jesus told the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering and be killed. Peter is very distraught about this and begins rebuking Jesus. Jesus tells him, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Now Peter offers to build a dwelling place for each of Moses, Elijah and Jesus. Perhaps he is trying to make up for his rebuke of Jesus. Perhaps he wants to do something, anything, in this very uncomfortable encounter. But a bright cloud appears and before Peter can even get his whole thought out, a voice thunders out from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" The disciples as one, fall to the ground, paralyzed with fear. Who is this being, speaking so emphatically to them from the cloud? What is happening to their friend?

Can you imagine that kind of fear? Fear beyond anything you have ever experienced. I can't help but think of the many people who have experienced fear for their lives in the recent earthquake in Turkey and northern Syria. Being trapped in any circumstances must surely bring fear, but there were unique circumstances in this earthquake. News reports say many of the over 40,000 buildings that collapsed crumbled into small pieces, leaving very little space in which survivors might huddle while they awaited rescue. Fear of close quarters, fear of further collapses, fear for family members, fear of death—so much to be afraid of.

Time must stretch so long. I can imagine victims wondering, how do I hang on? Does anyone know I'm here? When will rescuers get to me? And perhaps they even ask, Where is God?

That is a question that haunts not only those in need of rescue, but all of us at times. Where is God when my child or grandchild is ill? Where is God when that very unwelcome diagnosis comes? Where is God when so many are discriminated against, abused for the colour of their skin, their sexual orientation or their gender identity? Where is God when there is war, or famine or disease or oppression? Fear might make us ask, Where are you God? Do you even know I exist? Do you love us?

Fear of the power of the unknown, perhaps God, had Peter, James and John on their knees, crouching and covering their heads. They would likely know well God's caution to Moses and Elijah that they could not live if they saw the face of God. The disciples would be cowed by the cloud and the voice. But they were not *left* in that fear. Jesus comes to them and says, "Get up and do not be afraid." Sometimes though, just being told not to be afraid isn't enough. And Jesus does more than that. He reaches out and touches them. And that touch, probably more than the words, helps to calm them down enough to lift their heads and look up.

In the very midst of his own moment of glory and divinity, when he has been made dazzling and shining, when God has just announced of him, "my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased," Jesus seeks to connect with the disciples in that most human of ways, touch. He reaches out his hand to touch, perhaps their shoulders, and reassures them that he is there. And so the paradox, God, full of magnificence and glory, Christ filled with that glory as well, reaching out to touch, with human hands of caring, those who fear.

Commentator Patrick J. Willson calls to mind the great theologian John Calvin and says this of his theory:

God, who made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them; God, whose greatness is so vast that not even the heavens above the heavens can contain it; God, whose we are, is so magnificent that God is willing to come among us to reach out, touch us, and still our fears. For the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is God-with-us. Remember the angel's promise at the very beginning of the story? "'They shall name him Emmanuel,' which means 'God is with us'" (1:23).

Jesus' hand on the shoulder of the disciples, therefore, is nothing less than God's own touch. John Calvin himself says, "In Christ God, so to speak, makes [God's]self little, in order to lower [God's]self to our capacity; and Christ alone calms our consciences that they may dare intimately approach God." "God's glory is majestic and so far beyond our capacity to receive it that we can take just as much of God's glory as a human hand can hold." (Willson)

While we do not have the gift of receiving Christ's touch directly, we are told that we are the light of the world that is sourced by Christ. If we have the gift of Christ's presence within us, and if Christ is God made little, then I think we can be Christ's hands and feet, and perhaps I should add elbows, in this Covid-tide. We can reach out to those around us, offering the touch of a hand on a shoulder or bumping elbows, and easing the fear that those we touch may be wrestling with.

Think of the gift the touch of a hand would be for those trapped under the rubble for days and days. One woman was rescued 203 hours (that is almost 8 ½ days) after the quake struck. God is in the hands of the rescuers who reach in to lift the survivors out. God is in the hands of the medics who wrap blankets around the survivors, lift them onto a stretcher and bring them to safety. God is in the hands of those who hold a hand to offer comfort for the losses and horrors the survivors sustained.

As Patrick Willson puts it, "This is the way that God comes into the world: not simply the brilliant cloud of mystery, not only a voice thundering from heaven, but also a human hand laid upon a shoulder and the words, 'Do not be afraid.' God comes to us quietly, gently, that we may draw near and not be afraid."

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

- 1 We have come at Christ's own bidding  
to this high and holy place,  
where we wait with hope and longing  
for some token of God's grace.  
Here we pray for new assurance  
that our faith is not in vain,  
searching like those first disciples  
for a sign both clear and plain.
  
- 2 Light breaks in upon our darkness;  
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;  
Moses and Elijah marvel  
as the heavenly voice is heard.  
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder  
how the Law and Prophets meet:  
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,  
stands transfigured and complete.
  
- 3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,  
fearful lest our faith decline,  
we like Peter find it tempting  
to remain and build a shrine.  
But true worship gives us courage  
to proclaim what we profess,  
that our daily lives may prove us  
people of the God we bless.

### **Joys and Concerns**

- Happy Birthday
  - Peggie Dickie celebrates 97 years on Thurs. Feb. 23rd

### **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**<sup>®</sup> **Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1**. Copyright 2013, alt.*

*[A time of silence follows each petition.]*

Sovereign God,  
you revealed your love and guidance for us  
on Mount Sinai and the Mount of Transfiguration,  
giving us a vision  
of how to live in equity and peace.  
Trusting in your care for us,  
we bring to you our prayers.

We pray for your church,

that it may be the light of love for all people.

We pray for the nations of the world,  
that their governors may be wise and compassionate.

We pray for those who suffer illness or oppression,  
that our care for them may bring your healing and liberation.

We pray for your creation,  
that we may be your wise and obedient stewards.

We pray for all those who are in search of you,  
that they may walk by the lamp of your Spirit  
and be at peace in your light now and forever.

We pray in the name of the one whom you call your Own, your Beloved,  
Jesus the Christ **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: Update: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism**



From October 11 to November 25, 2022, the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism program was relaunched with brand new content. The response to date has been overwhelming, with high levels of participation.

The program, designed to move people through a journey towards becoming anti-racist, offered an opportunity for participants within the United Church and beyond to engage in learning and develop their faith.

The learnings allow for deep, thought-provoking discussion for both individuals and communities of faith. Written reflections, video workshops, and readings explore internalized racism, systemic racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, and more.

The United Church of Canada has made the declaration that it will become an anti-racist denomination, and the work of becoming anti-racist is an ongoing journey for everyone. Your [Mission & Service gifts](#) support expanding this crucial initiative each year, amplifying voices and encouraging deep reflection.

To deepen your learning and understanding, [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism materials](#) are available at any time on the United Church website.

**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.*

Our God has revealed to us  
a law and a love that leads us into becoming  
God's own daughters and sons.  
Therefore, let us gratefully give from that  
which has first been given to us,  
our lives, our talents, and our possessions.

*Ps. 2:7*

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

**God of mountaintops and valleys,  
be our vision of you clouded or brilliantly clear,  
we faithfully add our gifts  
to those being given all around us.  
Bless these offerings that they may be transfigured  
into your presence in the world. Amen.**

**Hymn: Lead on, O Cloud of Presence VU421 OneLicense #A-740237**

1 Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.  
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.  
Our slavery left behind us,  
new hopes within us grow.  
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

2      Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,  
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.  
        We are not lost, though wandering,  
        for by your light we come,  
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.

3      Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,  
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.  
        We pray our sons and daughters  
        may journey to that land  
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.

**Commissioning and Blessing** *Robin Wardlaw, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p.54. Used with permission.*

The light of Love has come to you this day.

**We will let it shine in our lives.**

The voice of Love has been experienced here this day.

**We will open our lives to receive it each day.**

The Christ has been present on this mountain.

**We will travel with Christ wherever our journeys may lead.**

### **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** *Bob Root, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p.50. Used with permission.*

Let us go, assured of our place in the good heart of God.

Let us go, knowing that the blessing of God holds us, strengthens us, and encourages us in all the places life calls us to be.

Let us go to be salt and light everywhere!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Postlude** *offered by the Red Suspenders and the Autumn Tones*

"We Are Marching"

**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.*

God, as this new day dawns,  
may your Spirit guide my feet  
and reveal you to me in new ways  
as I walk through your world today. Amen.

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

Holy One, thank you for the gift of this day.  
Whatever has happened,  
whatever I've done and left undone,  
help me hear the voice of Jesus tonight,  
telling me to go to sleep as I am and not be afraid. Amen.