



February 5, 2023

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church

February 5, 2023

Presiding today – Melville UC Social Justice and Outreach Committee
and Millicent Gordon, Centre Wellington Black Committee

Welcome

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

We gather in community today – February 5, 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.
- **“MID-DAY MUSIC AT MELVILLE” presented and performed by pianist BRAD HALLS**
Come and enjoy a musical break in your busy day at *“Mid-Day Music at Melville”* returns on Wednesday, February 8 from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m. at Melville United Church in Fergus, when pianist Brad Halls will present songs written by Broadway and Hollywood legend Cole Porter, one of those rare, brilliant musicians who wrote both the music and lyrics to his dozens of hit standards. Come and enjoy songs such as *“Night and Day”*, *“I Get a Kick Out of You”*, *“Let’s Do It (Let’s Fall in Love)”*, *“True Love”* and so 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.
- 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!!
- Let's celebrate our Melville UC Family along with Hope Springs UC on **Family Day Weekend!** **SUNDAY, Feb. 19** in the afternoon, come join us inside or outside!
 - Inside at Hope Springs UC ([75 Geddes St, Elora](#)):
Board Games and Snacks for all ages (0 - 100!)
 - Outside at the hill by the Wellington County Museum (Aboyne Library):
Tobogganing for all ages (weather permitting)
Hot chocolate and snacks after at Hope Springs UC
(children and youth need to be accompanied by an adult)
- **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

- 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!**

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: *Adapted from words of the hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say," lyrics by Horatius Bonar*

(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)

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light.
Look unto me; your morn shall rise

and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till trav’ling days are done.
(*Christ Candle is lit*)

Call to Worship:

With what shall we come before our God?
God has already told us what is good.
Shall we come with gifts and offerings?
God wants us to do justice.
What does the Lord require of us?
God wants us to love kindness.
What does the Lord require of us?
God wants us to walk humbly with God.
Come then, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer:

Hear us Holy One
You created all human beings in your image and likeness.
You have stamped each human person with a unique specialness,
and all persons bear your image.
Through that image you call on us to reflect
your goodness, justice, and love to all the world.
Remind us that when we speak out for justice, mercy, and compassion
we are displaying the attributes we find in you.
As we come to offer to you what we believe you are worth,
show us how to display you in everything we do.
Show us how to respect your image in all human beings.
Help us to defend your image that is found in all human beings.
Amen.

Hymn: My Lord, What a Morning

VU708

My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning
when the stars begin to fall.

- 1 You'll hear the trumpet sound
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall.
My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning
when the stars begin to fall.

2 You'll hear the sinner cry
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall.
My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning
when the stars begin to fall.

3 You'll hear the Christian shout
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall.
My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning.
My Lord, what a morning
when the stars begin to fall.

Call to Reconciliation

We can trust in God's mercy and love.
That means we can share all that burdens our hearts,
knowing that God will forgive us.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) —a litany suitable for the [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#) by Wehn-In Ng, from *That All May Be One: A Resource for Educating toward Racial Justice* (The United Church of Canada, 2004)

Wise and loving God,
you have created, and are still creating,
a world rich with difference and diversity.
You have created all people in your image,
each expressing their being and living their life
in valid, special relationship with you.

For all this, we give you praise.

For historical acts of injustice and oppression
perpetuated against Aboriginal communities,
Black, and various Asian communities
in this abundant land of the First Nations:

Forgive us, merciful God.

For the times we have failed to recognize racism
in ourselves, in our church, in our society,
and the times we have failed to take action,

Forgive us, long-suffering God.

For complicity in systems of privilege and power
over those whose skin colour, culture, or creed
differ from those of the majority, even today:

Forgive us, compassionate God.

Grant us courage never to let a racist joke pass in our hearing,
commitment to insist on equal treatment of all persons and groups—
including ourselves if oppressed—

even at the risk of being unpopular or misunderstood:

We beseech you, God of justice.

Grant us patience in enduring periods of non-action,
persistence in resisting the evil of radical oppression,
and faithfulness in working toward racial justice
among your people, in the church, and in the world:

We beseech you, God of hope.

And grant us humility and wisdom to discern
when it is that your Spirit must come to accomplish
that which human beings and groups cannot.

**We pray in the name of Jesus, himself
the bread of justice and the cup of solidarity. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Our God is merciful
and helps us to regard all persons as made in God's image.
God creates in us a clean heart
and puts a new and right spirit within us.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Children's Ministry: *God's Dream* by Bishop Desmond Tutu

Prayer/Blessing

(Children repeat)

Dear God, help me to get to know,
other children who may speak,
or look differently from me.
Remind me often that God loves us all. Amen.

Song: This Little Light of Mine by Henry Dixon Loes

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Oh, this little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No!

I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

Don't let Satan [blow] it out!
I'm going to let it shine
Don't let Satan [blow] it out!
I'm going to let it shine
Don't let Satan [blow] it out!
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11-16 (NASB)

For the Lord God says this:

"Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and look after them.

As a shepherd cares for his flock

on a day when he is among his scattered sheep,

so I will care for My sheep

and will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered

on a cloudy and gloomy day.

I will bring them out from the peoples

and gather them from the countries

and bring them to their own land;

and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel,

by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land.

I will feed them in a good pasture,

and their grazing place will be on the mountain heights of Israel.

There they will lie down in a good grazing place

and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

I Myself will feed My flock and I Myself will lead them to rest,"

declares the Lord God.

"I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered,

bind up the broken, and strengthen the sick;

but the fat and the strong I will eliminate.

I will feed them with judgement.

Ministry of Music "Hymn to Freedom" by Oscar Peterson played by Colleen Weber

Scripture: Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

It was for freedom that Christ set us free;

therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Prayer

May God bless to our understanding

these readings from Holy Scripture.

Reflection: 1... (Video 7 mins.) [Black History Month](#)

2.... Guest Speaker: Millicent Gordon, Centre Wellington Black Committee

Hymn: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

OneLicense #A-740237

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.

- 1 I looked over Jordan, and what did I see,
Coming for to carry me home.
A band of angels coming after me,
Coming for to carry me home. Oh,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
- 2 If you get there before I do,
Coming for to carry me home.
Tell all my friends I'm coming too,
Coming for to carry me home. Oh,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
- 3 The brightest day that ever I saw
Coming for to carry me home.
When Jesus washed my sins away,
Coming for to carry me home. Oh,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
- 4 I'm sometimes up and sometimes down,
Coming for to carry me home.
But still my soul feels heav'nly bound,
Coming for to carry me home. Oh,
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.

Joys and Concerns

- Happy Birthday
 - Don Kruger celebrates on Sat. Feb. 11, 2023

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

Loving God,
we thank you for the gifts that you have given us.
We thank you for this beautiful world,
rich in life-giving resources.
We are grateful to live in your grace.
We remember those who are struggling
because of poverty,
because of illness.
We remember those close to our hearts.
We reflect on, and remember those who continue
to suffer racism and prejudice.
Be with each of them. Help us to show them your love and grace.
Help us to raise our voices against injustice.
Help us create faith communities that love and embrace all.
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: Fighting Racism at Home and Abroad: Adele Halliday's Work



Credit: Robert
Massey

When was the first time you became aware of discrimination or oppression?

Adele Halliday, the United Church's Anti-Racism Equity Lead, says that parts of her work focus on racial discrimination—and she encounters many people across the church who are surprised by the ongoing systemic racism in church and society.

"I grew up as a racialized person and in a multiracial context, so this always surprises me. There's almost a kind of initial moment of realization," she says. "In my work, what I encourage people to do is move beyond that moment of realization, asking, 'So what does that mean for you in your life?' If you're a person who's benefited from racism, now what? What's your next action? What does it mean for your life in the church and society as a person, as an individual, as a family member?"

Racialized people are among the people who have felt the negative effects of racism. It can take many forms, but all are harmful. And even worse, racism still exists in Canada and in the United Church today.

Your gifts to [Mission & Service](#) support educational initiatives, programs, and partners that work hard to dismantle racism. One of these programs is the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism, which tackles topics like internalized racism, systemic racism, and anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism.

While the program was designed for The United Church of Canada, Halliday says the impact is global. "I have gotten messages from people in other denominations and in other parts of the world like the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States who are excited about the program and who want to use it," she says.

"There are people who are hurting because of racial injustice and racial trauma," says Halliday. "The work that we're doing helps us move collectively towards healing as a church and beyond."

Offering Invitation

The struggle continues in different forms,
but just like those before us,
we will continue to work for equal rights and justice for all.
When we see injustice, it is the prompting of the Spirit
for us to do something about it.

*(FYI During the time of offering, consider having a free will offering in support of a local organization working toward anti-Black racism in Canada.

Offering Hymn: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me VU575 v. 1, 2

- 1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

- 2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

Offering Prayer (in unison):

Your gifts to us are diverse and many.

In gratitude for all you have given to us we offer these gifts of money.

Yet not only our monies—we also offer to you our time and our abilities.

Use these gifts to make your love known throughout the world.

We dedicate ourselves and all that we are to your work.

This we pray in your name.

Amen.

Hymn: We Are Marching VU646 OneLicense #A-740237

1 We are marching in the light of God,
 we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
 we are marching in the light of God.
 (the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
 oo-oo, (marching,)
 we are marching in the light of God.
 (the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
 oo-oo, (marching,)
 we are marching in the light of God.

2 Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
 siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
 siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
 (khanyen' kwenkhos'.)
Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,)
 oo-oo, (hamba,)
siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
 (khanyen' kwenkhos'.)
Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,)
 oo-oo, (hamba,)
siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

3 We are marching in the light of God,
 we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
 we are marching in the light of God.
 (the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
 oo-oo, (marching,)
 we are marching in the light of God.
 (the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
 oo-oo, (marching,)
 we are marching in the light of God.

Commissioning and Blessing

In a world where we have, in the past, enslaved and dehumanized others,
we go to treat each person with dignity and respect.

In a world where profit is valued more than human life,
we go to proclaim the priceless worth of each person.

In a world where the ugliness of racism and White supremacy is found,
we go to show that love conquers all social ills.

Go forth into the world in peace;

be of good courage;

hold fast that which is good;

render to no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted;

support the weak;

help the afflicted;

honour everyone;

love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.