



**Celebrating
177 Years**



April 23, 2023

Melville United Church

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Melville united church
Sunday April 23, 2023
3rd Sunday of Easter/Camping Sunday

Presiding: Rev. Tom Watson
Music Ministry: Suzanne Flewelling

Prelude

Welcome

Good morning! We gather in community today, both in person and virtually. Printed copies are distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person.

For those who are joining us online, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available for the lighting of the Christ candle.

Announcements:

- **Many thanks** to the congregation for the cards, wishes and the beautiful prayer shawl. I am grateful for your caring and support. Rev. Lynda
- **Thank you, thank you, thank you.** We have reached our goal of \$3000.00 to make repairs to our organ. Repairs will begin soon. Thanks to all who contributed!
- **UCW meat pies** are for sale and are only **\$4.50 each!** You can pay by either a cheque made out to Melville United Church UCW or cash. Please have the correct change if you can. Contact Marg Frayne @ 519-843-3274 for your order.
- **Mon., April 24th 1:00-2:00pm** March of Dimes Canada will be hosting **Ask an Expert – Brain training - what do we know?** via Zoom to discuss: What is brain training and why all the interest? Does brain training work? Are there other options for managing my cognitive abilities post stroke? For more information contact Kim at 403-471-4148 / kasmith@marchofdimes.ca To register click [here](#).
- **“MID-DAY MUSIC AT MELVILLE” Wed., April 26th - 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m.** Pianist Brad Halls will present music written by largely unknown songwriters who perhaps only managed to produce one hit song. Their names may not rank with those like Gershwin, Berlin or Kern, but nonetheless they each produced at least one enduring classic song. You may not know the names – John Suessdorf, Eden Ahbez, or Herman Hupfeld, but you will know the music of these “One-Hit Wonders”. This will be the final performance of this music series for this season, but after a summer break, these concerts will resume on the first Wednesday of October. There is absolutely no admission fee for the performance, but a voluntary contribution to Melville to keep the heat and lights on and the piano tuned is always welcome.
- **CW blood donation event** The GrandWay, 744 Wellington County Rd. 21. Thurs. April 27 2:30-7:30pm. Book now at blood.ca
- **Mental Health Sunday - May 7th.** Our Social Justice & Outreach team will lead a service focused on mental health in our community. We are excited to share that **Neil Dunsmore** will be our guest speaker. A 28-year member of Melville, many of us know he is a talented storyteller! Author of the book *Reflections in the Ripple*, Neil is a mental health advocate who completed a 531 km journey to start a conversation around mental health and suicide, and to erase the stigma that prevents so many from reaching out for help.

- Save the Date **May 27th** for **Melville Plant & Bake Sale** more detail coming soon!
- **Friday or Sunday Coffee Time** – We encourage people to sign up to host either a Friday or a 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.
- **Donations to Garage Sales:** If you know of anyone moving, downsizing or de-cluttering, please keep Melville and our Garage Sales in mind.
- Are you looking for a supportive community to help you on your journey to sobriety? Come join us at the **Fellowship of The Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous meeting!** Our group meets every **Friday evening from 7:30-9:00 in the Fellowship Hall**. We provide a welcoming and non-judgmental space where you can share your experiences, receive guidance, and connect with others who are also striving for a sober lifestyle. Whether you are new to AA or a long-time member, our group is here to support you every step of the way. Don't go through this journey alone - join us at the Fellowship of The Spirit.
- **VON invites you to join SMART (Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together) Gentle Exercise Program Classes** at Melville **Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 am** as there are available spots. The 10:30 class is fully booked. Classes are FREE. Call Danielle to register 519-803-0144.
- **The Community Resource Centre** is looking for **volunteer drivers** to help those in our rural community who don't have the means to get to appointments, work, or education. Volunteer drivers receive \$0.55/km reimbursement. To apply, please visit <https://communityresourcecentre.org/transportation/become-a-volunteer-driver/> or call 519-843-7003 for more information
- 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 March 23rd): 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
- People continue to suffer as a result of the earthquakes that struck **southern Türkiye (Turkey) near the border with Syria**. 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.
- **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](http://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. **To order gifts, be inspired, or learn more, visit GiftsWithVision.ca today!**

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land on which we gather for worship is the traditional land of the people of Petun, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabewaki, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Odawa and Mississauga nations.

We acknowledge that we live on this land as people who have agreed to share the care and use of this land as a result of treaties—the Simcoe Patent—Treaty No. 4 and the Haldimand Treaty, that outlined 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

Let us hear again, the ancient sacred words of our ancestors in faith:

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness, not even the darkness of death, has overcome it.

Praise be to Christ, our light and our salvation.

Call to Worship

Come! Let us together marvel at life!

Strive to know its ways!

Seek wisdom and truth!

For they are the gateways to life's mysteries!

Marvelous, indeed, is life! Let us celebrate it!

Hymn — How Great is Creation (tune VU 293)

1. How great is Creation! In love it is made;
How glorious the Spirit of Goodness displayed.
The power of its beauty pervading my soul
Refreshes my spirit and I am made whole.

2. From depths of my being, Creator, I praise
The beauty of morning, your glorious days.
The promise of birth in the spring's gentle sun,
The seasons unfolding, and new life begun.

3. The song of Creation is our gift to share,
Our living a tribute to God's loving care.
The Spirit is present in all that we do,
In work and in worship, in Love ever new.

Gathering Prayer (in unison):

Loving God, Easter may have come and gone for another year, but the sights and sounds of Easter linger in our senses. May the message we heard empower us to look to the future with hope...to be realistic about our limitations, yet remain unafraid of our dreams. May it all help us to live courageously today and tomorrow. Amen.

Hymn: Small Things Count VU 361

1. Small things count, so Jesus said:
Cups of water, crumbs of bread,
Small things done because we're kind
Count as big things in God's mind.

2. Small things make the big things grow:
Yeast that bubbles in the dough,
Puffs that fill a big balloon,
Notes that make a happy tune.

3. Every hair that's on our head,
Every sparrow, Jesus said,
God takes care of, counts and knows;
God loves us from top to toes!

Children's Time: [Heaven among the Stars, Trees, and Lakes](#)

Scripture Reading — Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

"Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Ministry of Music — "Empty Grave" (*Spirit Sings*)

SERMON: "Life in Our Town...Coaxed Back into Life!"

Well, it's been a busy week in our town. Quite a few interesting things have taken place over the past while, and I thought you might like an update, so I checked.

The Lodge always runs a late-winter project. This year's project was most interesting. Grant Smithers had an old shed he wanted to get rid of, so he donated it to The Lodge to put out on the old slough at the south edge of Our Town...then The Lodge members sold tickets on when the ice would melt enough for the shed to fall through into the water.

Turned out that the slough became a popular gathering spot for a few weeks. Especially for the old guys. They'd have their morning coffee at Al's Café, then head on out to the slough and sit around there for a couple of hours before lunch...and then after lunch slip back out for a while mid-afternoon. They had all bought tickets so they didn't want to miss the excitement of the moment when the shed went down.

The deal was that when you bought a ticket you had to enter your guess as to the exact date and time when the shed would sink. To ward off any concerns about a dispute over the exact moment, Lodge Brother Fraser Millbank rigged up a big stop watch on a pole at the edge of the slough, ran a sensor over and mounted it on the side of the shed, about an inch above the ice. "When that shed hits the water," Fraser Millbank explained, "it will short out the sensor, an alarm will sound, the stop watch will halt, and there's your winning time."

Well, on April 19th...last Wednesday...it happened. Most of the old guys sensed that would be the day, so they were all out there sitting on their lawn chairs—their eyes switching back and forth from the shed to the stop watch on the pole. And then...at precisely 2:07 PM the alarm sounded and the stop watch fell motionless.

"Yippee!" shouted Milt Prosser. "That's the time I guessed!" It was a 50-50 type of event, so Milt cashed in \$172. While they were folding up their lawn chairs, the old guys, one by one, came over to congratulate Milt.

Everybody except for Eddie Pletschyk. "Thiz just not right!" shouted Eddie. "I had my eye right on zat stop watch and when zat shed went down it was a whole lot clozer to 2:08 than 2:07. Zat

makes me ze winner."

In a small town, it often doesn't take just a whole bunch to create controversy. They don't have any big stuff to worry about here, so they sweat all the small stuff they can find.

But, truth be told, it usually doesn't take a whole bunch to patch things up either, which is what happened when Milt said that he and Wilma had been meaning to take Eddie and Gerda out for supper for some time, and now that he had this 172 bucks seemed like a good time to do it. Eddie called it a deal.

They went to a fancy steak house in the city. Good thing Milt took along some extra cash because, with taxes, a bottle of wine, and a tip, the bill came to \$186. "Oh well," said Milt to Wilma later, "easy come, easy go."

So that's The Lodge project wrapped up.

Now, the season of spring always gets gardeners thinking about this year's planting...and lately quite a few people have been spotted out in their gardens, down on their hands and knees smelling the top of the soil. Avid gardeners claim that when the soil gets just right to plant, you can tell by the, well, kind of fruity, smell it has—which is 60 degrees Fahrenheit...or, if you're not too worried about accuracy...and therefore use Celsius...that's somewhere between 15 and 16.

Bridie Stevenson, as we know, is the most avid of our town's gardeners. We also know that Bridie likes to watch The Shopping Channel on television. One day in early April she was watching and caught one of those pitches made by Vince. You know Vince—he's the guy that sells the ShamWow and the Schticky, and a bunch of other stuff.

Well, the latest thing Vince has been hawking is a brand new thing called a Hedonic Odour Assessor. The way Vince described it, it measures the FIDOL factors in things using sound waves. FIDOL is short for Frequency, Intensity, Duration, Offensiveness and Location.

It is, claims Vince, a user-friendly version of an instrument that has long been employed by the military to determine the smell of an area before they invade it. Just to make sure the locals haven't planted any stink-bombs or other offensive stuff.

Bridie was watching and heard the pitch. "If you act quickly," said Vince in his usually excitable way, "this Hedonic Odour Assessor can be yours for just \$29.99 plus shipping and handling. And," he continued, "if you order within the next 20 minutes we'll throw in not one, not two, but three outdoor ant traps. But," he cautioned...as usual, "you must act now! We can't make this offer all day!"

It was Vince's mention of the outdoor ant traps that got Bridie's attention. Why would they be including outdoor ant traps along with something that measured odours? She thought about that for two days. She woke up with a start in the middle of the second night. "That's it!" she exclaimed. "I can use this to check the smell coming off the ground, and from that I will know when it's just right to plant my zucchini!"

On the morning of the third day, as luck would have it, Vince was still making his "you must act within the next 20 minutes pitch," so Bridie bit and ordered one.

It came last Tuesday afternoon by UPS. On Wednesday morning she went out and put it on top of the ground in her back garden. Proud as punch she was as she looked around the neighbourhood and saw others out there on their hands and knees smelling the soil. "Oh what fools mere mortals be," she clucked to herself. "No more of that for this girl. All I have to do is watch the meter on my Hedonic Odour Assessor and when it reaches 4.2, which, according to the guide, would be 60 degrees, I can get to planting."

Some lesser earthlings might have just stuck a thermometer in the ground, but not Bridie. She goes all out. And, she figures, no matter what, she will always have the ant traps.

Now...Frank Birstead doesn't attend church much. He does try and go on Christmas Eve and Easter, but otherwise leaves the religious end of the family duties to Myrtle. Myrtle attends regularly, over at The Church of the Reluctant Apostle.

However, this year he was sick on Easter Sunday so couldn't go. But Frank's also a member of The Lodge, and at The Lodge if you miss a meeting you're supposed to do a make-up, so he decided, just to be fair, he should attend church with Myrtle the Sunday after Easter. That would be last Sunday.

On the way home from church, he said, "Boy, Myrt...Pastor Willy sure plowed a deep furrow in his sermon this morning." Willy Flugel, as you know, is the pastor at The Church of The Reluctant Apostle. Myrtle didn't respond, just let the remark go.

On Monday morning, when Frank came home from coffee with the old guys, Myrtle was, as usual, sitting there in her rocking chair. Frank sat down in a chair opposite her and said, "Myrt, I need you to help me understand something."

"What's that, Franklin?" asked Myrtle.

"Well," said Frank, "I'm still tryin' to figure out what Pastor Willy was gettin' at on Sunday. Because whatever it was, I didn't get it."

"I see," replied Myrtle, "well, the story was about Cleopas and his wife walking along the Road to Emmaus so what was it...?"

"Whoa! Wait, Myrt. Stop right there. That was the first thing I didn't get. The story in the Bible doesn't say nuthin' about it bein' Cleopas' wife who was with him. The other person isn't identified. How come Willy said it was his wife?"

"Two people walking along the road together. It could well have been his wife," replied Myrtle.

"But, in any event, Willy never said that was for certain; he was just speculating, Franklin."

"Speculatin'?" replied Franklin. "Speculatin'? Why should you have to speculate about something that's written in the Bible? How does Willy expect someone who only goes to church a couple of times a year understand anything if what he hears is just speculatin'?"

Myrtle looked at Frank, started to grin, and said. "Maybe that's part of the problem, Franklin." Frank then realized what he had said. His face got a little red. "That didn't quite come out right, did it Myrt?" Myrtle just shook her head and smiled.

"Anyway," Frank continued, "the whole story makes no sense. Two people walking all by their

lonesome down some road. Their friend Jesus had just been killed the other day in Jerusalem, and they're, naturally, still talkin' about it. And then, from out of nowhere, some stranger appears and asks them what they've been talkin' about, so they tell him.

"At the start, the stranger lets on he knows nothing about what had happened, but then, after they tell him, he explains it all...just as if he knew all about it beforehand. This some kind of riddle, Myrt?"

Myrtle just looked at Frank. He continued. "But then, when they get to where they're goin' — Cleopas and whoever...and don't start with that wife business again, Myrt—they invite this stranger to stay and spend the night with them. He agrees. Then as soon as they have some supper, he...well, he just up and vanishes. Just like that! Just like in one of those David Copperfield or Penn and Teller magic shows. Poof, he's gone!"

Frank took off his cap, rubbed his forehead. "And then...well then comes the capper, Myrt. After this stranger scoots off into thin air, they figure that it was Jesus all along."

Frank tossed his cap down onto the floor by his chair. "Myrt, I just don't get it. As I said, the whole thing makes no sense to me. And I don't think it made any sense to Pastor Willy either. Otherwise, he'd have been doin' more than just...what's the word you used, Myrt...oh yes, speculatin'."

Myrtle rocked in her chair, thinking, and then said, "Do you remember the title of Pastor Willy's sermon, Franklin?"

"Yes, I believe so," replied Frank, "it was Coaxed Into Life."

"Right," said Myrtle. "Well, here's my take on it. We both know what it's like to have someone close to us die, right?"

"Yes, of course, Myrt."

"Can be pretty painful for a while," said Myrtle.

Frank nodded.

"And then it seems as if, for a while at least, on some occasions it really feels as if that person is still present with us?"

Frank nodded again. "Yep. I remember it was like that after my mother died. Every time we'd get together for Christmas dinner, it felt as if she was still there. Same with my dad."

"Then," Myrtle continued, "what do we always do after a funeral?"

Frank thought and then said, "You mean...go to the graveyard?"

"Yes, we do that," said Myrtle, "but then what?"

Frank looked at Myrtle and said, "You mean, go have lunch together?"

"Right!" said Myrtle. "And what does having lunch together do?"

Frank scratched his cheek...deep in thought...and then replied, "Well, while we're having lunch we continue to talk about the person who has just died, and we realize that we're all hurting in some way."

"I think you're getting it, Franklin," said Myrtle. "We realize we're all grieving but we're working it out together. And what does all of that help us do?"

"Helps us get better," replied Frank.

"Right," Myrtle said, "it helps us heal our hurt feelings, and then what?"

"Well, Myrt, then I guess we decide there's only one thing to do, and that's to realize that life goes on."

"So all of that talking and sharing food and such has done what, Franklin?"

Frank just looked at Myrtle. Furrowed his brow. Puzzled.

"What was the title of Pastor Willy's sermon, Franklin?"

"As I said before, Myrt, I believe it was Coaxed Back Into Life."

"And so...?" asked Myrtle as she leaned forward, looking at her husband.

"Ah, I get it, Myrt. All of that talking and getting together over food, it all helps coax us back into life."

"Ex...act...ly!" replied Myrtle. "Whoever wrote that road to Emmaus story used different words but it was about the very same, common, experience that you and I have had. About the importance of sharing our stories, about the importance of living together in community, and one of the things we do that reinforces community is share food together. It's all a recognition that, no matter what has happened to us, we're not alone and life goes on."

"Not only that," continued Myrtle, "we also realize that something very real of the person who has gone is still with us. Living on in us."

"Wow, Myrt!" exclaimed Frank. "Now there's something I can understand. I think maybe Pastor Willy should have had you do the sermon last Sunday. Makes a whole lot more sense than his...well... speculatin'. I've said before that you should have been a preacher."

Myrtle chuckled. "No, Franklin. To each their own. I'll leave the sermonizing to Pastor Willy. What I like to do is cooking." She got up from her rocking chair, and started to head toward the kitchen. Then she turned and said, "It's time for lunch, Franklin. Could I coax you into sharing some wieners and beans?"

Frank smiled. "You're some kind of woman, Myrtle Birstead. Some kind of woman."

Myrtle winked at Frank and headed on out to the kitchen.

Well, that's all the news from Our Town for this week. At least, from the stories that I've heard.

Hymn MV #147 God, Help Us to Treasure

1. God, help us to treasure these moments of mys'try,
To hallow the Sacred in all that we do.
Throughout ev'ry season may we be your agents
Of love, joy and blessing as hearts are renewed.

2. God, help us to honour your presence among us
In newborn, in elder, in fam'ly in need.
By sharing with others we soon will discover
Your kindness and loving in generous deeds.

3. God, help us to value each moment of wonder
When peace shall o'ershadow our sorrow and pain.
In times shared at Table with all who are kindred,
May we find the healing to sing Love's refrain.

Sharing our joys and concerns

Poem "Spring Longing" by James Clarke

Prayers of the people and the Prayer of Jesus

Minute for Mission:

May 11, 2023 is Moose Hide Campaign Day, a day when all Canadians are invited to take a stand against violence toward Indigenous women, girls, and 2S-LGBTQIA+ people.

The Moose Hide Campaign is an Indigenous-led grassroots movement of men, boys and all Canadians who are standing up against violence towards women, girls, and 2-Spirit people. It was started to bring attention to the large number of Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been murdered along Canada's infamous Highway of Tears in British Columbia.

The heart of the Moose Hide Campaign is the pin – a small square of moose hide offered as a medicine for a social illness impacting all Canadians – namely domestic and gender-based violence against women and children, and particularly indigenous women and children. It acts as a symbol of solidarity in standing up against the violence in Canada.

Wearing the moose hide pin signifies a commitment to honour, respect and protect the women and children in your life and speak out against gender-based and domestic violence. It is a concrete way to spark conversations and build commitment and capacity to address this critical issue.

The United Church has shared its belief that “everyone, created in the image of God, has a right to be treated with respect and protected from harm.” Members, friends, and communities of faith are asked to share that belief, to combat violence, and to call for justice by participating in the [Moose Hide Campaign \(opens in a new tab\)](#).

See the Social Justice section of Melville's website for more information and links to the campaign.

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn: Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow VU 541

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:

Hymn: He Came Singing Love**VU 359**

1. He came singing love and he lived singing love;
He died, singing love.
He arose in silence. For the love to go on
We must make it our song, you and I be the singers.

2. He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;
He died, singing faith.
He arose in silence. For the faith to go on
We must make it our song, you and I be the singers.

3. He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;
He died, singing hope.
He arose in silence. For the hope to go on
We must make it our song, you and I be the singers.

4. He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;
He died, singing peace.
He arose in silence. For the peace to go on
We must make it our song, you and I be the singers.

Benediction

As we go our separate ways, let us remember to pay attention to the symbols of life that surround us—

Infants and adults, birds and animals, light and noise, colours and movement, words of goodwill, songs of joy.

May we recognize, and rejoice in, these symbols of life every day...

And be inspired to share them generously!

Go in peace!

Postlude — "All of Creation" (*Spirit Sings*)**Household Prayer:**

Wondrous God, I am in awe that you would choose to be born among us, revealing your divineness enlivening the ordinary things of my life.

I thank you for the gift of Jesus who walked among us, wept with the suffering and raged in anger at the injustices of his day. I thank you for the vision you etched in his heart, a fullness of righteousness for all the world.

I thank you that he called others to follow that they too might know the joy of new life. As Jesus' disciple, help me to walk in the way. Help me to carry the vision in my heart, however discouraged I get. Help me to see through eyes of faith, my life, my relationships, the world you so love. Help me day by day, in my words and deeds to reflect your light.

Through your wisdom and Spirit, may I grow in my capacity to love you, my neighbour, and myself, as you so love. Amen.

Worship Schedule

Apr. 30	4 th of Easter	Rev. Tom Watson
May 7	Mental Health Sunday	Social Justice Committee
May 14	Christian Family Sunday (Mother's Day)	TBA
May 21	7 th of Easter	Rev. Tom Watson