



**Celebrating  
177 Years**



**April 7, 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	Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Youth Faith Formation	Naomi Flint
Ministry of Music Team	Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber
Office Administrator	Lynda Rivet
Custodian	Robert Mitchell, Suzanne Flewelling
Chair of Church Council	Allan Hons
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Office hours	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.
E-Mail	<a href="mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com">secretary@melvilleunited.com</a>
Web Site	<a href="http://www.melvilleunited.com">www.melvilleunited.com</a>
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-843-3841

## Melville United Church

Good Friday

April 7, 2023

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*Presiding: Rev. Tom Watson  
Music Ministry: Colleen Weber*

### Prelude

### Greeting

ONE: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

**ALL: And also with you!**

### Welcome

Welcome to this time of worship on this Good Friday 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 or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

### Announcements

- **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.
- **The organ needs your help.** Our beautiful Melville pipe organ is in need of repair. We have carefully completed repairs and general maintenance. As you are aware things break. There have been issues with the Swell expression for several years now. At this time the Swell expression is beyond repair and needs to be updated and replaced with a new louvre drive motor. The cost to restore the Swell expression with a new motor will be \$3000.00. Please consider making a donation for this very worthwhile project in order for Melville to continue enjoying this wonderful organ. For the many ways to donate, please consult the Melville web site. For further information contact Ralph Rainford 519 843-3841. Thank you for helping.
- 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.
- **“MID-DAY MUSIC AT MELVILLE”** presented and performed by pianist BRAD HALLS **Wednesdays 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m.** Pianist Brad Halls will present music written by Jimmy McHugh, one of the most prominent composers from “Tin Pan Alley” era of The Great American Songbook. Writing for Broadway revues and Hollywood films from the 1920s to about 1960, McHugh is the composer of dozens of *standards including On the Sunny Side of the Street, This is a Lovely Way to Spend an Evening, I Can’t Give You Anything but Love, It’s a Most Unusual Day* and many more. This music series will continue each Wednesday to and including April 26, when we will take a break during the summer months,

resuming performances in 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.

- **Centre Wellington Singers** presents **Love Songs for Springtime Saturday April 15 at 3pm** at Hope Springs United Church. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, and may be obtained by calling 519-843-6655 or from choir members.
- **Knox-Elora Presbyterian Church** presents **Naomi Bristow: The Yodelling Cowgirl!** A celebration of Country, Western and Gospel Music **Friday, April 21 7pm** Tickets \$15.00 and available at Wreckless Eric's, Magic Pebble, or the Knox-Elora church office
- **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.
- Save the Date **May 27<sup>th</sup>** 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.
- 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 23<sup>rd</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!](#) 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](http://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**

The clouds begin to swirl. The sky turns dark.

**Shadows gather in the distance. A clap of thunder and then...silence.**

Over on a little hill, strange sounds ring out. Hammers. Nails.

**A piercing cry. And silence once again. It is finished.**

And we...we who gather at the foot of the cross...are left to watch and wait.

### **Hymn VU #149 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

1. When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ, my God:  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

3. See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small:  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

### **Gathering Prayer (in unison):**

**Gracious God, will you be here with us on this most sacred of days? Will you watch and wait with us? Will you allow us to share your tears—the tears of the universe? And will you also bless us with the hope that comes to those who wait...so we will know that, in your good time, all manner of things will be made well? Come, gracious God. Come among us. God...come. Amen.**

## Hebrew Scriptures Reading — Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

## Hymn VU #144 Were You There (vv. 1, 2, 3 and 5)

*OneLicense #5f45865a5b96a*

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

3. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

**Ministry of Music:** "Beneath the Cross" words by Elizabeth C. Clephane, the tune St. Christopher by Frederick C. Maker and choral setting by Joel Raney.

## Reading: The Crucifixion Story from John

After Jesus finished telling his disciples that he wouldn't be with them much longer, he looked up to heaven and prayed saying, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

"But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

After Jesus had prayed these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "For whom are you looking?"

They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." When Jesus said that, they stepped back and fell to the ground.

Again he asked them, "For whom are you looking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go."

Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.

Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword away, Peter. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father God has given me?"

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die than for all the people to perish.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter stayed outside at the gate.

The slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. And Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

There was a woman guarding the gate. She said to Peter, "You are also one of this man's disciples, aren't you?" Peter replied, "I am not."

Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman guard, and brought Peter in.

Annas, to whom they had brought Jesus, began to question Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching.

Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said."

When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?"

Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"

Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Meanwhile, in the courtyard, Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are also one of his disciples, are you not?" He denied it and said, "I am not."

One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Next they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, for to do so would be a defilement of the ritual and they would not be able to eat the Passover.

So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you!"

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death."

So Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew. Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. Tell me, what have you done? Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

Pilate replied, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "It's you who say that I am a king. But I was born, and came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Pilate scoffed, "What is truth?" (go behind organ) After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against this man. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you this man—the King of the Jews?"

They shouted in reply, "No! Not this man! Release Barabbas!" Barabbas was a bandit who had been held in prison. So Pilate released Barabbas.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

Pilate went out again to the crowd and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him."

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him."

The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He did not want to create an uprising. So he entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

So Pilate said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?"

Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

From then on Pilate still tried to release him, but the crowd cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. And he said to the crowd, "Here is your King!"

They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor."

So Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

It was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. They took Jesus, and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.



Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." It was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

When the chief priests read it, they said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"

Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."

Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because he was afraid to be a disciple openly, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. There was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid.

And they laid Jesus there.

#### **Hymn VU #142 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (vv. 1 and 4)**

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there a precious fountain,  
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.

In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.

In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

### **Offering Invitation**

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

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:**

#### **Our Good Friday Prayers**

#### **Hymn: VU #182 Stay With Us Through the Night**

*OneLicense #80489*

1. Stay with us through the night. Stay with us through the pain.  
Stay with us, blessed stranger, till the morning breaks again.

2. Stay with us through the night. Stay with us through the grief.  
Stay with us, blessed stranger till the morning brings relief.

3. Stay with us through the night. Stay with us through the dread.  
Stay with us, blessed stranger till the morning breaks new bread.

*the sanctuary candles are now extinguished  
the cross and Bible are covered with a black cloth*

#### **Benediction**

The candles go out. And we take our leave, to watch and wait in other places...

#### **Until we return on the third day hence.**

In the meantime, we will continue to listen for the voice of God, which will once again pierce the silence of this dark day with the sounds of new life.

**And the whole world will proclaim the good news of Easter!**

**Amen.**

*We leave the sanctuary in silence.*