



***Celebrating
177 Years***



May 28, 2023

Melville United Church

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Presiding today - Rev. Tom Watson

Music Ministry: Colleen Weber

Prelude

Welcome

Good morning! We gather in community today, both in person and virtually.

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

- **Our wonderful custodian Bob Mitchell is retiring at the end of June.** We want to recognize and thank Bob for his many years of service to Melville. On **Sunday, June 25th** in the Parlour after the worship service there will be a reception to honour Bob. We invite you to attend and celebrate with us. We are collecting money for a gift for Bob. If you want to contribute, please see Ralph Rainford. Thank you.
- **Broadview subscriptions are now due.** It is time to renew your subscription for another year. This wonderful magazine is available for the low price of \$25.00 (same as last year). Please see Ralph Rainford to renew or to sign up for a new subscription.
- Join us for an evening of authentic **Andean music by Eko-Gemah** here at Melville on **Saturday, June 10, at 7:00 pm**. This freewill donation concert is in support of Melville and the Guelph Food Bank. Immerse yourself in the captivating melodies of traditional acoustic instruments. For more information, contact Rene Crespo at rene.crespo@rogers.com.
- **Garden Team:** We have our first crop of kale, lettuce, and spinach already planted in the garden. Our regular meetings take place every **Monday around 6:00pm** (unless it's raining). If you would like to join us, we would love to see you! For more information, please speak to us on Sunday or contact ogilvielms@gmail.com
- **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. Donations can be dropped off at the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00-3:30. For more information or if you have large items to donate please contact Lorna Bevcar.
- 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.
- **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 today!**

We 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 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, 1793 and the Haldimand Treaty, 1784 - 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

It's Pentecost Sunday—the day of the Spirit!

The Spirit comes like flames dancing, promising a new time!

The Spirit moves, nudging us to new commitment, to new ways of being the church!

The Spirit calls, luring us across new thresholds of life as God's people!

The Spirit fills us with fresh courage and hope!

The Spirit works among us, as we work and worship together, and support each other in our faith!

Hymn: Filled with the Spirit's Power **VU 194**

1. Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord

The infant church confessed its risen Lord.

O Holy Spirit, in the church today,

No less your power of fellowship display.

2. Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
That unity may be our great desire.
Give joy and peace, give faith to hear your call,
And readiness in each to work for all.

3. Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
With your compassion all the human race.
Like wind and fire with life among us move,
Till we are known as Christ's, and Christians prove.

Gathering Prayer (in unison):

Loving God, as we worship fill us with the birthing Spirit of Pentecost. Breathe into us dreams of new life, call us to explore new horizons, and reaffirm us as people touched with your grace. Amen.

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: "Come, Holy Spirit" by Patrick M. Liebergen
OneLicense #A-740237

Scripture Reading: John 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Scripture Reading: Acts 2: 1-13a

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

SERMON: "New Dreams Keep Us Going!"

The other day, some friends shared with me an article called "Pearls Of Wisdom From The Young." It had to do with young children's responses to questions about marriage.

Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single, but not for boys. Boys need somebody to clean up after them.

Anita, age 9

Single is better, for the simple reason that I wouldn't want to change diapers. Of course, if I did get married, I'd just phone my mother and have her come over for some coffee and diaper-changing

Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age, because by then you know the person forever.

Camille, age 10

What would you do if your first date turned sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns.

Craig, age 9

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You watch close and see if they are yelling at the same kids.

Derrick, age 8

How do you decide who to marry?

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and later you get to find out who you're stuck with.

Alan, age 10

Now, that stuff has nothing to do with the sermon. I just thought the children's responses about marriage were so priceless.

Howard Thurman was one of the great black preachers of the 20th century. Because he was black, his life was one of struggle. Thurman knew, first hand, all about racial prejudice.

In one of the last interviews he gave, before he died at the age of 90, he was asked what had kept him going. In answering, he talked about his grandmother, who had been a slave.

"When grandmother knew the water was getting low in my well—the low well being a metaphor for some personal difficulty or discouragement—whenever the water was getting low in my well, grandmother would tell a story out of her past. It was always the same story, but it was one of those special stories that never grow old, so I always waited for it with great anticipation."

The story was about when she was a young woman on the plantation. Once a year, sometimes

more frequently, the minister, who was himself a slave on a neighbouring plantation, was permitted to hold a religious service for the slaves.

Always, no matter what his subject was, he ended his sermon in the same way. He would stand, look down at them for a long, long time and then say, "You are not slaves! And you are not niggers! You are God's children! And God's children gotta dream!"

And Howard Thurman said that when his grandmother would tell him that story, she would always get a faraway look in her eyes, and her spine would stiffen, and even as a boy he could feel the sense she had of being one of God's children. With that sort of backing, Thurman said, he could absorb all of the violence of life.

God's children gotta dream! I wonder...what is your dream this morning? For yourself? For your family? For your church?

Or is the water in your well so low that you have no dream? That happens too...as we all know.

That's the way it was for the disciples after Easter. Time was when they had such grand dreams for what Jesus would do to change the world, but Jesus ended up just like all ideas whose time has not yet come—done away with in the blackness of Good Friday.

He had talked endlessly about the new age that would dawn. But each day brought another day just like the last one. So, no more dreams for them. The crucifixion had been a rude awakening to reality.

Life has a way of doing that.

- Our life-partner is suddenly taken ill.
- The university graduate is killed in a car accident on the way to pick up her diploma.
- The plant announces they're closing, and we're out of a job.
- The relationship goes sour and falls apart.

Crucifixions crowd us, our wells are drained of their resources, and we are left empty. Without a whole lot to dream about.

But then it happened! It was on the day of Pentecost, Luke says. How appropriate! Pentecost—the celebration of the giving of the Torah. The birthday of the true beginning of old Israel. The day of the celebration of the first fruits of Spring.

Suddenly, like the rush of a mighty wind, like tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit breathes new life into the community, and a fresh dream is born. A dream that is to pick up a motley group of down-in-the-mouthers and turn them into world-changers.

How exciting it must have been to feel what they felt! Can you imagine what it must have been like to be energized with some brand new fire, to suddenly be able to put into brand new words—words that not only you but everybody else understands—what God has done and is doing in this crazy,

mixed-up world of crucifixions.

Look, as an aside, I must tell you that I don't really understand what Luke means when he says that everybody was able to understand everybody else, in spite of speaking in different languages. For I would like...just once...to experience everybody who spoke the same language, gathered in one place, understanding one another fully. That would be enough of a miracle for me!

But, no matter how you interpret this story, the point is that everybody got the message! Something new was happening. They were all captivated by a new dream. And the reality of the dream was that life hadn't ended back there on Good Friday; rather life was only beginning! Something brand new was happening!

Isn't it interesting how the birth of the new is always contained in the ashes of the old?

As they celebrated the old Pentecost—as they did what they'd long known what to do, and there was nothing else to do—the new was suddenly born. The Spirit filled them with a new dream and they were sent forth to pursue what they were meant to pursue all along.

Maybe that says something profound to us. Maybe it says that we usually don't have to look very far for a new dream...that we're quite likely to find it as we poke through the ashes of the dreams that have now faded and died out.

Remember some of those? Remember when you used to dream about:

- How it was going to be when you finally became a teenager.
- When you finally got your driver's license.
- When you graduated from school and got that first job.
- When you got married...had children...retired.

Well, all of us don't have those exact dreams now. But the Pentecost story says that what we really need to do is to reshape those old dreams into new ones. To refocus them into where we are now in life. To let their ashes light the fires for the new dreams that will keep us going today. To let the rushing winds of life blow some new breath into today's spirit that by times grows old and tired.

And this goes not only for our lives as individuals but for our church life as well. I have a hunch that the Spirit is nudging folks here at Melville with some new dream. The dream of a church alive, moving, faithful—not for its own sake, but in commitment, and love, and faith, and stewardship, and excitement, and enthusiasm.

A dream of a church that makes a difference. To us who are part of it. To our community. To our world. A church that serves the needs of people. A church that remembers that its principle task is to remind people, as Howard Thurman's grandmother's old black preacher did, that they are God's children.

The truth is, of course, that kind of dream will fade if we don't keep the fire lit under it. For the realities of life bump as hard into a church as they do into individual life. But if that dream is kept in front, we always have something to keep us going.

Once upon a time, Langston Hughes wrote a poem entitled "Mother To Son" and it goes like this...
Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It had tacks in it, and splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor—bare.

But all the time
I've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landings,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where they ain't been no light.

So boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps
'Cause you finds it kinder hard.
Don't you fall now—
For I've still goin', honey,
I've still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

Well, life for most of us ain't been no crystal stair. At least, not all the time.
But...if you remember nothing else I say today, remember this:
All God's children gotta dream. You are God's children! And God's children gotta dream!

Hymn: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me VU 575

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!

3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Sharing our joys and concerns

For the past 3 years, I have been editing poems for a Guelph friend, Jim Clarke—a retired Superior Court judge and poet. Periodically, Jim will write a villanelle—a poem of French origin which has repeating lines. As a prelude to our prayers this morning, here is one of Jim's villanelles entitled "Find the Light Within Each Day."

Poem: "Find the Light Within Each Day" by James Clarke

Find the light within each day—
though clouds loom dark and bleak
there's always a kinder, gentler way;
find the light within each day.

Find the light within each day—
doubt not the good of those you meet
despite what all the cynics say;
find the light within each day.

Find the light within each day—
beggars and homeless whom you greet
will bless your deeds not made in clay;
find the light within each day.

Find the light within each day,
and hold fast the hand of all who seek
but stumbled hard and went astray;
find the light within each day.

Find the light within each day,
though often hidden beneath your feet
when you've forgotten how to pray;
find the light within each day.

Find the light within each day—
let your kindnesses always speak, and
even knowing grief's not far away,
give thanks for beauty's light each day.

Prayers Of The People And The Prayer Of Jesus

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:

Minute for Mission

Hymn: God Be With You Till We Meet Again **VU 422**

1. God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.
refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet.
 Till we meet, till we meet,
 God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again;
Unseen wings, protecting, hide you,
Daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. refrain:

3. God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again. refrain:

4. God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again. refrain:

Benediction

We have gathered as the church...and now we go out...

Filled with the wind of faith...

Filled with the fire of love...

Filled with the light of hope...

And filled with the peace of the Spirit...

Which will remain with us always!

Amen.

Postlude

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

June 4	Trinity Sunday	Rev. Tom Watson
June 10	Eko Gemah Fundraising Concert 7:00pm	
June 11	2 nd after Pentecost	Rev. Felisha Urbanski
June 18	Indigenous Day of Prayer	Social Justice Committee