



**Celebrating
177 Years**



June 11, 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
Faith Formation & Youth	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, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Office hours	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.
E-Mail	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-843-3841

Melville United Church
June 11, 2023
Second Sunday after Pentecost

Presiding today - Rev. Felicia Urbanski
Music Ministry: Colleen Weber

Welcome

Good morning! Welcome to worship at Melville United Church. How wonderful to be together on this spring Sunday morning – both in person here in the sanctuary, and online.

Announcements

- **Update on Melville's Organ:** The new Swell Expression motor has been installed and at the time it was discovered that a new 55-amp power supply needed to be added to allow for the operation of the new motor and at the same time beneficial to the function of the organ. This was all possible through the generosity of the Melville Church Family who responded to the appeal for donations to pay for the unanticipated expense of repairs that were necessary for the organ. Thank you!
- **Photo Directory:** They are almost all delivered! A "Thank You!" to Lorri Wright for co-coordinating, Marg Frayne for helping computer wise and with the photos, Susan Barth helping as receptionist, and Alison Rainford for helping with the last of the photos. Well done! Thanks!
Lorna
- **Garage Sale Update:** We are **accepting donations on Wed. June 14th from Noon - 8pm**. If you can supply Baking, supply Plants, that would be great! It helps if Baking is packaged, ready for the Sale, in 2's, 4's, or 6's. Baking should be brought in on the Thursday before the Sales. Garage, Plant & Bake Sale dates: Friday & Saturday, June 16, 17, 23, 24, July 7, 8, 14, 15 from 8:00am-4:00pm. No sale on the long weekend.
- **Summer is Coming – Let's Celebrate June 25th – 6:30 pm in Melville's Garden.** You are invited to come and celebrate the beginning of summer. Music, Summer Reflection, Fellowship, and there could be some snacks. Mark your calendar and **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR.**
- **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.
- **Two Countries – One World (TCOW)** is back! Join our regional United Church program for **high schoolers (Grades 10-12)** on a March Break International Experience. Discover global learning, friendship, and engagement with critical issues like Peace & Conflict, Poverty & Inequality, Indigenous Matters, and Environmental Sustainability. Invite your high schooler and their friends, regardless of religious background, to our INFO session on **June 21st at 6pm**. Visit waterlootcow.ca for applications and details. Don't miss out on this life-changing opportunity!
- **Garden Team:** Our weekly meetings occur on **Mondays** at approximately **6:00pm**, weather permitting. We welcome anyone interested in joining us! To learn more, please reach out to us on Sundays 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.
- 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.

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

Dear Lord Jesus, Light of the world,

As we light this candle, we acknowledge your love and kindness.

We acknowledge your coming and your sacrifice.

We celebrate your resurrection and the gifts of your Word and the Spirit.

We pray that your light illuminates our minds and our spirits.

Call to Worship

Beloved of God, let us worship the One who sees us for who we are -

We are created in God's image, called to God's service.

Beloved of Christ, let us worship the One who sees us for who we can be -

We are empowered by Spirit, transformed in God's new creation.

Beloved people of God, come, let us worship together.

Hymn: This is God's Wondrous World VU 296

- 1 This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
 all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
 of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.
- 2 This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
 the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
 in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Opening Prayer:

**Holy One, we gather in your name to celebrate this springtime of new beginnings.
We give thanks for the abundance of gifts in our midst.
May we use all of these gifts wisely and well,
that we may witness to your love for the world.
Guide our steps in the way of Jesus
who calls us to be his disciples.
By your Spirit that is Holy,
empower us to live into your realm of justice and peace. Amen.**

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: Panis Angelicus by Cesar Franck *arranged by Edward Broughton*

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness

O Author of the Universe: how often in the midst of our busyness,
our getting and spending, our planning and delivering, we find ourselves tired and listless.
We have lost a sense of joy in your presence
and gratitude for the simple beauty of Earth.
Remove the dullness of our minds,
and awaken us again to delight in you throughout creation. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Behold: there is a new heaven, a new earth and a new city, where the river of life flows,
where the tree of life bears fruit in every season.
This heaven, this city, this river, this tree are a vision of your life reborn, restored, and renewed.
Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Illumination

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9 (NRSV)

The Call of Abram

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 (NRSV)

The Calling of Matthew

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Prayer:

Sermon: "Blessings All Around"

Blessings all around. Have you noticed the blessings all around you lately? I was noticing some just the other day:

- Our neighbour across the street where we live in Fergus – she is an older woman whose husband with advanced dementia now lives in long-term care – and yet she has the blessing of their adult son coming over to mow her lawn and repair her wooden planters.
- The country store where I go to shop in Elora has a man working there whose young grandson is in his care for the day. He shows me where the seeds are that I am looking for, and I notice that this child has been given a lovely easel and crayons, and he is encouraged to draw a picture of one of the chickens who produces eggs for the store. Then the two go off together to collect some of the eggs.

- I finally remember to bring over some of our extra strawberries to the family of our neighbour, a young woman who faithfully collects our mail and waters our vegetable gardens every time we are away. I have to say she is one of those people who never asks for anything in return, yet she is always there to help us out, especially during the times in the past few years when my mother was ill and I had to leave right away.

All of these are seemingly little things, everyday things. Yet, they are stories of the positive impacts that people can have on one another. Stories of grace and blessing. These aren't dramatic, big stories. Even the stories we hear in the Gospel reading today are everyday occurrences for Jesus. Yet, they are full of the significance of God's abundant grace providing people blessings all around.

Jesus invites Matthew, the tax collector, to eat with him. I'm sure this was something that never happened to him – Matthew even accepts the invitation right away, without hesitation. Then the ones who *think* that they are pious and holy and therefore above everybody else – the Pharisees – are appalled to see Jesus doing this. Eating a meal – such an intimate act – with the low-life's, the ones they call "sinners"! We have to remember that in the first century, in the Middle East, meal-sharing was a big deal. It was a sign of acceptance. It was the offer of a relationship. It was a symbolic gesture that carried with it a guarantee of peace, trust, and forgiveness. To sit down and eat with someone was a big deal, so the religious people were very careful about whom they ate with. To them, religion was about keeping yourself pure. In fact, the word Pharisee even means "separated" – they wanted to distance themselves from sin.

They report what they see happening to the disciples, and yet Jesus' response is one that challenges them to reflect deeply upon their attitude. "It is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick."

Then Jesus is called away by the leader of the synagogue whose daughter has died. Meanwhile, as he is walking to this man's house, a woman comes along and – without saying a word – touches the edge of Jesus' garment. We learn that she had been suffering with constant bleeding for 12 years – a horrific situation – without relief. But for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." And that's exactly what happened. A simple act of faith, yet a profound impact on her life.

The story of the daughter coming back to life is even more impactful. Jesus tells the crowd, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.

He doesn't want all that publicity – all the media coverage as we would have today – Jesus would not have wanted any selfies taken! – so when they are alone with the girl, the story goes that Jesus went in, took her by the hand, and she simply got up! The news spread anyway, inevitably.

Each of us is invited to look deep inside of ourselves, and to ask, "What did the leader of the synagogue and the bleeding woman have in common? What feelings prompted each of them to approach Jesus in their own way?" We today are encouraged to be blessed, and to be a blessing. We are encouraged to nurture that deep faith which invites us to look to and depend upon God even in the most difficult areas of our lives. As well, we are encouraged to "be the church".

Jesus created the church to show love to *everyone*. There's this verse in our Gospel reading: "Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'" Here, Jesus is quoting the Hebrew Bible, what has been called the Old Testament, and he is quoting the prophet Hosea. And what he's saying is that God doesn't want sacrifice, or religious ritual – all the things the Pharisees were good

at — but that what God wants is for us to show forgiveness and grace and mercy and compassion for everyone.

God's calling is for each of us to be a positive impact on people — a blessing -- whereas the Pharisees offer more of a curse to people who are not like them.

The reading from the Book of Genesis emphasizes this too: There's a connection in the two readings with the call of Abraham and the call of Matthew the tax collector -- and both obeyed.

God said to Abraham: "You will be a blessing to others..." And that's the issue in the Gospel too -- Jesus is a blessing to all the low-life's the Pharisees can't stand -- "sinners" -- they called them.

So, in our lives, grace can appear in many ways. It can appear as an unearned gift out of the mouth of a small child. It can be in words or simply a smile. Such unexpected blessings come without a price tag, and like the rain we're having this morning, they fall upon the just and the unjust alike.

Jesus says those words from Hosea (6:6), "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." The word mercy in Hebrew is *hesed* which is also translated as loving-kindness. Mercy has to do with offering compassion and love to someone whether they deserve it or not.

An Irish author once wrote: "We may imitate the Deity in all his moral attributes, but mercy is the only one in which we can pretend to equal God. We cannot indeed, give like God, but surely we may forgive like God."

Therefore, may goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life. Amen.

Hymn: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing VU 326

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace.
- 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.
- 3 He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.
- 4 Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,
your tongues again employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,
and leap, you lame, for joy!
- 5 My gracious Master and my God,

assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**

- Isabel Weaver celebrates 95 years on Wed. June 14th

- **Anniversaries**

- Morven & Ken McCorquodale 63 years on Sat. June 17th

Prayers of the People

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.

Offering Invitation

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside down world of the Gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but what we can give away.
Let us give away generously, in this offering,
To bless your church, your people, your creation.

Offering Hymn: What Can I Do

MV191

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Offering Prayer

Hymn: Deep in Our Hearts

MV 154

1. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.
2. Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,

justice and peace in harmony.

3. Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.
4. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Commissioning

Go from this place, let your anxious worries cease.
May the lilies of the field and the birds of the air
Inspire you to see God in all you do.

Blessing

May the blessing of Jesus, who announced God's righteousness,
of the Creator, who fills Earth with beauty,
and of the Spirit, who nurtures awe,
bless, inspire and empower you. Amen.

Household Prayer

Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.
(from Project Ploughshares)

Worship Schedule

June 18	3 rd after Pentecost	Social Justice Committee
June 25	Indigenous Sunday	Rev. Tom Watson
June 25	Evening Garden Service 6:30pm	