



**Celebrating  
177 Years**



**August 20, 2023**

Melville United Church

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Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach

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Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

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Custodian

Suzanne Flewelling

Chair of Church Council

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Office hours - August

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday

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Pastoral Care Numbers

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## Melville United Church

August 20, 2023

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*Presiding today - Rev. Jeff Hawkins*

*Music Ministry: Suzanne Flewelling*

### Welcome

#### Announcements:

- **If you are worshipping with us for the first time, welcome!** Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the parlour after the service.
- **UCW Meat Pies** are available for purchase after the service or order by contacting Marg Frayne 519-843-3274 or [margfrayne@hotmail.com](mailto:margfrayne@hotmail.com) Only **\$5.00** each, cash or cheques made payable to Melville United Church UCW.
- Help is needed with the PowerPoint and sound on **August 27th**. Barry can provide training to anyone interested before then. Please contact Barry Rawn [brawn@cogeco.ca](mailto:brawn@cogeco.ca)
- **We are in need of welcomers and counters.** Onsite training will be provided. Excellent benefits. Please see Ralph Rainford to volunteer.
- **Kids' Church** is on a summer break and will gather again September 10. During the summer books and independent activities will be available in the sanctuary. Have a great holiday!
- **Summer office hours (July & August):** Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday 9:00am - 3:30pm.

#### Land Acknowledgement *paraphrased from prayer by Read Sherman*

Let us take time to acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial.

God, help us to be thankful and to become better neighbours and stewards that we might continue to honour these lands.

#### Call to Worship:

Let the people praise God;

**Let all the peoples praise the Lord!**

Let the nations be glad and sing with joy,

**For God guides us all with justice and equity.**

Let the people praise God, for how we have been blessed;

**Come let us worship and offer all honour and praise.**

#### 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.

#### **Opening Prayer:**

**Welcoming God, you make all things new. You invite all people to receive your blessing. We are filled with joy to be counted among your children. As we gather, make us one in witness and worship. Together, we lift our voices to proclaim your all-encompassing love. May our praise join with the praise of all your people, and reach the ends of the earth, for you are our Maker and the hope of the world you love.**

#### **Prayer of Confession:**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as you have taught us. Forgive us those times we have not welcomed others into our community; and those times we have avoided others because something about them made us uncomfortable. Forgive us for the ways we have judged people unfairly. Reveal to us our own prejudices, and show us how to see your goodness in those who seem different from us.**

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

While it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, I say, be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

**Ministry of Music: Heaven's Jubilee** *sung by Rev. Jeff Hawkins accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling*

#### **Scripture: Matthew 15: 21-28**

##### *The Canaanite Woman's Faith*

<sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' <sup>24</sup> He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' <sup>26</sup> He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' <sup>27</sup> She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

### **Sermon: Who Let in The Dogs**

Perhaps during the service you have heard the odd dog barking in the background, I live next to the Wingham Vet Clinic and often on Sunday Morning they let the dogs out in the back yard for some exercise.

Last week at the party in Chatham, at times there were eight dogs running around the yard at the farm where I was staying. Some large and some small. During the evening activities, I heard the comment made, "Who let the dogs in"

In our scripture today we hear about a woman who comes to Christ as her daughter is having problems, "scripture says she was demon possessed.

If you find yourself broke, busted and disgusted, you don't need an investigator to find out why.

If you're beaten, bruised and abused, you don't want to see a commission of inquiry to find out the cause.

If you're depressed, dejected and rejected, it's not important to you to probe the reasons behind it. All you really want is some help.

You see, dying people, broken people, hurt people, used and abused people don't need to find out why, they need some help.

Then one day, the news travels into the village that a man was coming to town. He was not just any man. He was no ordinary man.

Oh yeah, she had heard about this man.

Jesus was His name and delivering hopeless people was His claim to fame. This Jesus was coming by her way. She was so consumed with excitement that she ran out to meet Him.

She came and found Him and began crying out after Him. "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David."

we find Jesus doing exactly the opposite to what we think He should. He does not rush to her aid. He does not agree to follow Her home. He does not soothe her heart with words of encouragement. No, it says he remained silent. "He answered her not a word."

This woman, kept on crying out. She was persistent. She knew that if He didn't answer, there would be no answer.

She knew that Jesus, Jesus He's the man, if He can't do it, nobody can.

Jesus breaks His silence and says to her "I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

First he ignores her. Then she has to endure the ridicule of the disciples and finally when this Jesus opens His mouth, here He is with words of discouragement. I haven't been sent here for your kind of folks. I have more important people to deal with.

Jesus answers with those famous words "It is not good to take the children's bread and to cast it to dogs."

Was Jesus calling this woman a dog? A sister came for a little help and He calls her a dog.

Now today we say that a dog is a man's best friend but back in Jesus' day, the dog was the most miserable creature on the face of the earth. For the most part they were not domesticated and could be seen roaming the streets barking at passers-by. They were annoying, barking and howling late at night. They would lie lazily around in the daytime.

However Jesus doesn't call her a stray dog. He uses a different word that suggests a little dog, a pet, a housedog.

She replies, "Truth Lord but the dogs eat from the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Don't miss this, don't miss this!

You see the Jews had called the Gentiles dogs all the time but never this kind of dog. They were always stray dogs but never housedogs. How did the dogs get into the house? Who let the dogs in? I said, Who let the dogs in?

You see those stray dogs are left on their own to fend for themselves. But not a housedog. A housedog has a master.

If you call me a housedog, I'm alright with that. I have no problems with that. But if I am a housedog then I have a Master and you, Jesus, are my Master.

You and I need to realize we are worth something not because of who we know on this earth but because of who we know in heaven.

You see she was recognizing that this was no ordinary man, no ordinary prophet, no ordinary healer.

And so she says, Lord, just your crumbs alone will satisfy me. Just a little morsel from your hand will give me more than I ever needed. Just a little touch from you O, Lord will make me whole.

Just a little word from you will soothe my aching soul.

Just a little move of your Spirit can change my life.

Just your crumbs, O Lord will satisfy me.

And praise God today that Jesus answered this woman's prayer. Can you imagine the scene back at her home when this mother got her daughter back.

But the good news is that one day, Jesus kicked the door of salvation open on its hinges of grace

and mercy and let dogs like you and me in. And now He does not call us stray dogs nor house dogs but children of God.

I'm glad today that Jesus let the dogs in.

**Hymn: Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore VU 563**

- 1 Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore  
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.  
    O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,  
    and while smiling, have spoken my name;  
    now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
    by your side I will seek other seas.
- 2 You know so well my possessions;  
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
- you will find there my nets and labour. R
- 3 You need my hands, full of caring  
through my labours to give others rest,  
and constant love that keeps on loving. R
- 4 You, who have fished other oceans,  
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me. R

**Prayers and 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.

**Joys and Concerns**

- **Birthdays**
  - Elizabeth Stinson celebrates on Wed Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Vivian Andrews celebrates on Fri Aug 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Marilyn Stickney celebrates 97 years on Sun Aug 27<sup>th</sup>
- **Anniversary**
  - Lorri & Richard Wright celebrate 48 years on Wed Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Offering Hymn: What Can I Do**

**MV 191**

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

#### Parting Song: O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art) VU 238

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!
  
- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. R
  
- 3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin. R
  
- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!' R

#### Worship Schedule

August 27	13 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson
September 3	14 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	Rev. Jeff Hawkins