



August 6, 2023

Melville United Church

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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	Suzanne Flewelling
Chair of Church Council	Allan Hons
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Summer Office hours (July & August)	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Wed.-Fri.
E-Mail	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-843-3841

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Presiding today - Rev. Jeff Hawkins
Music Ministry: Suzanne Flewelling

Prelude

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 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
- **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. Office closed August 9th.
- **Tuesday, September 26, 7:00-8:30 pm** Invitation to the Fishbowl Gathering. Cross-Generational Discussion. Calling people who are teens to twenty-something & those who are in the 40s to 90+ age groups! Are you eager to engage in dialogue across generations with a shared concern for youth ministry in the post-pandemic time? Join this unique opportunity for cross-generational sharing to better understand one another and our contexts within the church, between: Youth & Non-Youth. Read about the background, goals and the Fishbowl Process at <https://wowrucucc.ca/fishbowl-cross-generational-discussion> [Register by Tuesday, September 12](#)
- **Call for Young Adults for UN Climate Change Conference.** Are you passionate about climate change and making a difference in the world? The United Church of Canada is searching for a young adult delegate to join the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) Delegation in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This incredible opportunity takes place from November 30 to December 12, 2023. **Application closes September 13.** For more information visit <https://united-church.ca/opportunities/un-climate-change-cop-28-delegation-dubai-young-adult>

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:

Our God is faithful in words, and gracious in action.

Our eyes look to God for nurture in every season.

God is near to all who call out in truth.

God satisfies every living thing.

God watches over all who offer love and praise,

So we will praise God's holy name for ever and ever.

Opening Hymn: Let Us with a Gladsome Mind VU 234

- 1 Let us with a gladsome mind
 praise our God, forever kind;
 whose great mercies still endure,
 ever faithful, ever sure.

- 2 God, with all-commanding might,
 filled the newmade world with light;
 for God's mercies still endure,
 ever faithful, ever sure.

- 3 God has with a gracious eye
 looked upon our misery;
 for God's mercies still endure,
 ever faithful, ever sure.

- 4 All things living God does feed,
 with full measure meets their need;
 for God's mercies still endure,
 ever faithful, ever sure.

- 5 Let us then with gladsome mind,
 praise our God, forever kind;
 whose great mercies still endure,
 ever faithful, ever sure.

Opening Prayer (in unison):

**Mysterious and merciful God, we praise you for all the ways you offer us abundant life.
When the sun rises and the earth blooms around us, we are thankful for your gift of a new day.**

When evening falls and we find ourselves in a lonely place, we count on your presence for comfort. For the times you show us the way and give us guidance, we praise you. For the healing you offer when we are broken and hurting, we rejoice. Your grace satisfies us in every situation, and so we worship you for you are the Source of life and love, comfort and courage day by day by day. Receive our prayers and praise, O God, this day and every day, now and always. Amen

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious and merciful God, In Jesus you show us the way of compassion and forgiveness, yet we neglect the suffering of others. We blame and judge each other in the moments you call us to act with kindness and mercy. Free us from greed and from grievance. Open our hearts so we may embody Jesus' teachings and walk in his way.

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Christ, you are forgiven. Forgive one another, and be at peace with God, with yourself and with each other.

Ministry of Music - He's Everything to Me

Words and Music by Ralph Carmichael

Sung by Jeff Hawkins, accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling

Scripture: Matthew 14: 13-21

Feeding the Five Thousand

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' ¹⁷ They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' ¹⁸ And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Sermon: Give it All You've Got

Recently I watched a video of a mother bear and her cub trying to climb the side of a snow cap ridge. The mother made it to the top but the little one would get part way up and then slide down again. Finally, after the third attempt the cub made it to the top and ran off with the mother and I am sure was celebrating the victory. I could almost hear the mother saying, "**Give it all you got**".

Have you ever tried to be good enough at something so as to earn the respect of your friends?

This attitude is what stops a lot of people from coming to God and even stepping out to be used of God. If only I was better at this particular area of my life, then I could be used of God.

I ask you this question. Does God create no-hopers? Satan will try to convince you that He does but here's the truth,

GOD DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES! So go ahead...give it all you've got

From Scripture we heard Jesus say to the disciples, "They don't need to be sent away, you give them something to eat" and they responded **YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING JESUS THERE'S 5000 OF THEM!**

Does that sound like anyone you know? You want me to do what God? No way, I could never do that.

The disciples say, "We only have 5 loaves and 2 fish" "Good bring them to me" Jesus said. He directed the people to sit down on the grass,

The disciples did what they were asked and gave him the fish.

When God tells you to do something, it might take you by surprise and you might even say, "you got to be kidding" but know this

If you give to God what you have even though you think it might not be enough then, God is going to take it and you will be surprised to see what you can do with what He gives back to you.

He gave thanks and broke the loaves, then He gave them to the disciples and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied.

The disciples were just people like you and me. They couldn't feed 5000 people on what they had, but God certainly could. In their obedience then God used them to do the very thing that was impossible to them.

What have you missed out on because you have said NO to something that someone has asked you to do. Not only do you miss out on seeing God come through but so does the person that God had intended to bless through your obedience.

God goes on and shows the giver a powerful illustration on what He will get for doing God's will.

The disciples picked up 12 basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. When you give out then there will always be enough left over for you, He will never leave you to go hungry.

As the old song says, Little is much when God is In It. When you start with little God can make up the shortfall.

God loves to use people who understand this principal.

Let's go back to another great promise shown to us at the start of this Scripture. After you have been used of God then you have His assurance that you are now ready to be used again.

Jesus withdrew to a place of solitude, SO SHOULD WE! The people saw where he was going and ran around the lake to meet Him when he landed. We see Jesus step out of the boat and he is into another time of ministry and healing. Jesus had just come from a great time of ministry.

God will always replenish your supplies from one harvest to the next. We must stay alert to where He leads us and to how He is going to use us. The only condition is that we remain open to being used and be prepared to do what He calls us to do.

God wants to use each one of us no matter how or what we feel about ourselves, how your game is going. Give to Him what you have and let Him use you in ways that you could never dream.

Have you said NO to God before? Have you felt like I'll never be good enough? Good because that's when God can use you, we will never be good enough but by God's grace he enables you to do great things for Him, just give Him the opportunity.

Again, I end with asking you the question. Does God create no-hopers? Satan will try to convince you that He does but here's the truth, GOD DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES!

So go ahead...be like the little cub bear on the mountain side, give it all you've got.

Hymn: Break Now the Bread of Life VU 501

- 1 Break now the bread of life, Saviour, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you, O Living Word.

- 2 Bless your own truth, dear Christ, to me, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall,
and I shall find my peace, my all-in-all.

Prayers

**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

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. (x2)

Offering Prayer

Parting Song: God, as We Rise to Leave VU 417

- 1 God, as we rise to leave this shell of worship,
called to the risk of unprotected living,
willing to be at one with all your people,
we ask for courage.
- 2 For all the strain with living interwoven,
for the demands each day will make upon us,
and for the love we owe the modern city,
God, make us cheerful.
- 3 Give us an eye for openings to serve you;
make us alert when calm is interrupted,
ready and wise to use the unexpected;
sharpen our insight.
- 4 Lift from our life the blanket of convention;
give us the nerve to lose ourselves to others;
be with your church in death and resurrection,
God of all ages.

Postlude - Sheltered in the Arms of God

Words and Music by Dottie Rambo and Jimmie Davis
Sung by Jeff Hawkins, accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling

Worship Schedule

August 13	11 th after Pentecost	Rev. Felisha Urbanski
August 20	12 th after Pentecost	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
August 27	13 th after Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson
September 3	14 th after Pentecost	Rev. Jeff Hawkins