



September 3, 2023

Melville United Church

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Faith Formation & Youth

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Custodian

Suzanne Flewelling

Chair of Church Council

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Office Hours

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T, Th, & F

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Pastoral Care Numbers

519-843-3841

Melville United church
Sunday September 3, 2023

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.
- **We are in need of welcomers and counters.** Onsite training will be provided. Please see Ralph Rainford to volunteer.
- **Bake Sale at Melville 10:30 a.m. on Sat, Sept. 9th.** Butter tarts, peach pies, cookies, muffins and more!!
- **Rise and Shine Breakfast.** The GrandWay Events Centre 7445 Wellington County Road 21 Elora. Join us on **September 21st, 8:00-11:00am** for a morning of entertainment and support for youth and adults in our community with a Learning Disability and ADHD. Their gifts add so much to our lives and community and this event will help ensure everyone can reach their full potential. For more information and to purchase tickets visit <https://ldawc.ca/rise-and-shine-breakfast.html>
- **SMART Exercise Instructors Needed.** Are you looking for a fun way to stay active and help your community? VON is seeking individuals interested in helping facilitate community based exercise classes for seniors! All training will be provided and will work to build a schedule that is suitable for you. See the flyer on the Community Bulletin Board outside the Parlour or contact Kelly at Kelly.Gee@von.ca for more information.
- Mark your calendars for **November 18th at 7:00pm**, because the King is coming to Melville! Join us for an unforgettable evening with the incredible **Elvis Tribute** Artist, Garry Wesley! Tickets will be \$25 and will be on sale soon. More details coming soon.
- **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!

Land Acknowledgement

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:

Give thanks to God and tell of God's gifts.

We will sing praises for all that God has done.

Let your hearts be joyful!

We will seek God's presence continually.

Call to mind God's wonderful works.

We will always remember the blessings of God and glorify God forever!

Opening Hymn: O Worship the King VU 235

- 1 O worship the King, all glorious above,
 O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
 our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
 pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

- 2 O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
 whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
 whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
 and broad is God's path on the wings of the storm.

- 3 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
 Almighty, your power has founded of old;
 has stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
 and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

- 4 Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
 and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

- 5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
 your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
 our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, in you we live and move and have our being. You are the beginning and end of all things. In your depth, we find mystery. In your breadth, we know your tender embrace. We can only wonder at your love for us, so small a part of your whole creation are we. Yet in Jesus Christ we meet your generous grace. In the Holy Spirit, you move with us to inspire our action and fill us with hope. And so we worship you in humble praise, Holy God, ever Three and ever One, now and always.

Prayer of Confession:

Faithful and forgiving God, we confess we do not live out your love and mercy. We cling to old hurts and familiar habits. We nurse anger and envy. We are often so self-absorbed that we turn our backs on those in need. Forgive what we have been, amend who we are, and guide us toward who we may become according to your generous grace. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

The Apostle Paul declared that from now on, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start through God's embracing grace.

Ministry of Music: It's No Secret (What God Can Do) *words and music by Stuart Hamblen*

Scripture: Matthew 16: 21-28

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

The Cross and Self-Denial

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Sermon: Did you say Disciple?

How we relate to one another as a body of believers, rather than just living out our faith privately as individuals. Today we look at "discipleship".

Did You Say Disciple?" Disciple" means "follower". A jazz trumpeter might be called a "disciple" of Wynton Marsalis if he imitates his playing style. In medicine, we don't call it "discipleship," we call it "residency". Residents learn the practice of medicine by observing and imitating a more experienced physician. Another example would be a beginning electrician or plumber who learns their trade by becoming an "apprentice". They become a disciple of a more experienced electrician or plumber.

The word "disciple" is used in the gospels to the Twelve; the dozen men whom Jesus selected to travel with him, those whom He chose to teach and train personally.

Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.'

When Jesus said that we should "follow" him, he wasn't talking about literally strapping on a pair of sandals and walking with him along the dusty roads of ancient Palestine. No, he meant we should follow his example; we should live the way he lived; we should obey his commands; listen to his teachings; look to him as our teacher and guide.

"Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you."

Sounds quite arrogant, doesn't it? Be like me! Do what I do! Follow my example!

You might say, "Well, I'm just not a teacher. That's not my gift." And that may be true. Perhaps God hasn't called you to stand before a group of people and explain the Scriptures. But God has called you to teach on a one-to-one basis. You can call that counseling, you can call that just being an encourager, but God has called you to build up the other members of the body by sharing with

them your knowledge, and your insights, and your experiences.

I'm speaking to everyone (listening) in this room. not just so you can be a better Christian, not just for your own spiritual benefit, but so you can teach others to follow Him as well.

In other words, after you've been around a while, after some time has passed, your level of knowledge, and understanding, and experience should be greater than when you were just beginning. To be a "disciple" is to be a lifelong learner.

So the church helps us to follow Christ because it provides the context in which we teach one another and train one another and learn from one another. Through our counsel and our witness, we share our experiences, our wisdom, our knowledge, our understanding. Through our lives, we demonstrate to one another what it looks like to seek after God, what it looks like to live for Christ.

If a disciple is a "follower," and we are disciples of Christ, it follows we are willing to be led. We are willing to be led into places we don't understand; even places that are dark, and scary, and painful, and unpleasant; because we trust the One we are following.

In closing, let me ask you a question: Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ? Not, "do you believe in Christ," and not, "are you a church member," and not even "do you give, and serve, and attend," but are you a disciple? Are you a follower? Are you a learner?

How do you measure up? If you're like me, probably not as well as you would like. But that's OK. Start where you are. And wherever you are, I urge you to decide now, today, you are going to follow Christ, that you are going to be a disciple, a follower, an apprentice of Christ. "Did you say Disciple"

Hymn: Take Up Your Cross VU 561

- 1 Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
 if you would my disciple be;
 take up your cross with willing heart,
 and humbly follow after me.

- 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
 fill your weak spirit with alarm;
 Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up,
 and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

- 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
 nor let your foolish pride rebel;
 your Saviour once accepted death
 upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

- 4 Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
 think not till death to lay it down;
 for only those who bear the cross
 may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Joys and Concerns:

- **Birthdays**
 - Kaillie Rawn celebrates on Tues Sept 5th
- **Anniversary**
 - Rossie & Barry Rawn celebrated 41 years on Mon Aug 28th

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: We Are Pilgrims VU 595

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

- 2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

- 4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

- 6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Postlude: The Lily of the Valley *words by Charles W. Fry, music by William S. Hays*