



November 26, 2023

Melville United Church

300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9

Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M2W7

519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Minister of Pastoral Care

Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

Office Administrator

Custodian

Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

Office hours

E-Mail

Web Site

Rev. Marion Loree 519-835-8605

Martha Duncan

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Lynda Rivet

Suzanne Flewelling

Allan Hons

Alison Rainford 519-843-3841

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

secretary@melvilleunited.com

www.melvilleunited.com

Melville United Church
Reign of Christ Sunday
November 26, 2023

Presiding: Rev. Ruth Brown
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements:

If you are worshiping with us for the first time, welcome! Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the parlour after the service.

- **Rev. Marion Loree** has been retained to provide **Pastoral Care** to the Melville congregation until a more permanent minister is in place. If you or someone you know has a Pastoral Care emergency or concern please call Rev. Marion at 519-835-8605 or email at m.loree@rogers.com. Alternatively, Alison Rainford will also answer calls and/or pass along information to Rev. Marion.
- **Cozy Closet** is cancelled this Sunday but will be open to all to find free warm clothing, **December 2, 11am -3pm**. Donations are still welcome.
- **Memory Angels:** Our Memory Angels will be decorating the Sanctuary this season, in memory of our loved ones. Those who have had Angels in the past can renew your Angel with a minimum donation of \$5 each. Those who are new to this can have a handmade Paper Angel decorate the Sanctuary, with an inscription on the skirt, dedicating this Angel in memory of your loved one, from you, for a minimum donation of \$5. Your year-end statement will include this donation. The Angels stay at Melville safely packed away, until the next season. These Angels bring comfort and meaning to the Melville families during the season, knowing we are remembering our loved ones. Please contact Patty Duncan.
- **UCW meat pies** are available now. \$5 each. Buy after church or contact Marg 519-843-3274 OR margfrayne@hotmail.com
- The music series "**Mid-Day Music at Melville**" presented by pianist Brad Halls returns on **Wednesday, November 29th from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m.** at Melville United Church in Fergus. Brad continues his musical journey through the past 100 years of the Broadway musical, and Wednesday's concert features classic songs from the Broadway seasons from 1943 through to 1945, when many commentators suggest Broadway entered a "Golden Age". The new songwriting team of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein would mount their historic productions of *Oklahoma!* and *Carousel*, while a young Leonard Bernstein would burst onto the scene with his first musical *On the Town*. Come and enjoy selections including *Oh What a Beautiful Morning*, *If I Loved You*, *Speak Low*, *Lonely Town* and many more. There is no admission cost for these concerts, but a voluntary donation to Melville United Church to help keep the heat on and the piano tuned is always appreciated.
- The Youth of Melville will celebrate **White Gift Sunday** with a child-centred service on **December 10**. If you wish, please bring a gift that would be appreciated by teens, young adults, or young mothers. The gift should be wrapped in white or in a white bag, if possible. (Ideas for gifts - toiletries, razors, feminine hygiene products, diapers) Thank you!
- **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.

- The **Food Bank** is in need of donations, more than ever. Please consider bringing donations of nonperishables, toiletries, or a gift card, to church. Baskets are located in the sanctuary. **Items most needed are:** pasta sauce, Chunky soup (Habitant), small canned soup, pasta side dishes, canned vegetables, canned tomatoes, canned fruit, cold cereal, peanut butter, juice, jam, canned salmon, and canned pasta (beefaroni, etc.).

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (Psalm 100):

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us and we are God's;

We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to God, bless God's name.

For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.

Hymn: Make a Joyful Noise VU 820

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song!

- 1 Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song! R
- 2 Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song! R
- 3 Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song! R

Gathering Prayer:

In all times and seasons we are invited to gather together and to give you thanks and praise, even in the worst of times. So in this Sabbath time of worship, may we be reminded that, whatever our need, you are faithful, you are the giver of all good, that you Lord God of the Universe, are always with us, through Christ we pray. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "Soon and Very Soon" Words and Music by Andraé Crouch, Choral Setting by Jack Schrader

Children's Time

Hymn: Seek ye First the Kingdom of God VU 356

- 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
 and God's righteousness,
 and all these things shall be added unto you.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.

- 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you;
 seek and you shall find;
 knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.

- 3 We do not live by bread alone,
 but by every word
 that proceeds from the mouth of God.
 Hallelu, hallelujah.

Scripture: Philippians 4: 4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his

angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Response:

The Word of Life and Love

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Remembering the Reign of Christ

Hymn: Great is thy Faithfulness VU 288

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!
- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

Sharing our joys and concerns

- Condolences
 - We offer our deepest condolences to Eleanor Johnston and family on the passing of her husband Les Johnston. Les passed away Monday, November 20, 2023. The family invites you to join them for a 'Celebration of Life' ceremony at Melville on December 29th at 1:00 pm.
 - Lorna Bevcar is asking for prayers in the loss of her son's father-in-law, Bill Skokun from Woodstock. He passed away November 21, 2023.

Minute for Mission

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:

Christ Jesus, we offer our gifts to make tangible your kingdom on earth as in heaven. In devotion to you, we offer our lives. Open to your Spirit, fit us for service in your Way. Amen.

Hymn: My Life Flows on VU 716

- 1 My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing:
It finds an echo in my soul -
how can I keep from singing?
- 2 What though my joys and comforts die?
My Saviour still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round?
A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that Rock I'm clinging:
since Love commands both heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?
- 3 When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
and hear their death knells ringing:
when friends rejoice both far and near,
how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile
our thoughts to them are winging:
when friends by shame are undefiled,
how can I keep from singing?
- 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths,
since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing:
all things are mine since I am Christ's -
how can I keep from singing?

Commissioning and Benediction:

As we leave this Sabbath time of worship, may we remember Christ's Way of healing forgiveness, social justice and caring compassion, shaping and reshaping us and all our world.

As our life flows on, may we remember the faithful presence of our God forever and always at work in us and others, renewing our joy, sustaining our peace, and reviving our hope, time after time.

In the grace of Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Spirit. Amen

Postlude**Worship Schedule**

December 3	Advent 1	Rev. Tom Watson
December 10	Children's Christmas Advent 2	Kids' Church and Youth
December 17	Advent 3	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
December 24 th 11:00 am	Advent 4	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
December 24 th 7:00 pm	Advent 4	Rev. Ruth Brown
December 31st	1 st Sunday after Christmas	Rev. Jeff Hawkins