



January 28, 2023

Melville United Church
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Office Administrator

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Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

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Melville United Church

January 28, 2024

Presiding: Rev. Felicia Urbanski

Musician: Colleen Weber

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.

- **Rev. Marion Loree** is here on Fridays during Coffee Hour and is also available for an hour or two afterwards.
- **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, January 31st from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m.** here at Melville. We will celebrate productions from Broadway shows which debuted in 1955 and 1956. Those seasons were dominated by Lerner and Loewe’s enduring classic *My Fair Lady*, but there were several other popular productions including *Damn Yankees*, *Bells are Ringing* and others. Wonderful songs from these shows include *Just in Time*, *Standing on the Corner*, *I Could Have Danced All Night*, *You Gotta Have Heart* and almost a dozen 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.
- **Rides needed for seniors:** Can you help? Rides to Wed Piano Concert (Noon - 1pm), Friday Morning Coffee (10 - 11am), and Sunday Service (11am - Noon). Please speak to Lorna Bevcar
- **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.
- Thank you for your donations to the **Food Bank** there is an **ongoing need** of nonperishables, toiletries, or a gift card. Baskets are in the sanctuary.
- **Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers!** For more information visit habitatgw.ca/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@habitatgw.ca
- **TCOW Sleepover March 22-23, 2024** - Parkminster United Church, Waterloo. TCOW is hosting a fun sleepover event for youth (grade 8-12+) and Youth Leaders for a fun event full of good, games, community, faith, and learning! For more details visit <https://www.waterlootcow.ca>

Lighting the Christ Candle (in unison)

**We light a light in the name of the God who creates life,
in the name of the Christ Presence who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.**

Call to Worship: (responsive)

In the presence of our Creator, we gather this day in a spirit of gratitude.

Gratitude for all the gifts of Creation—the air, the water, the land, the change of the seasons.

Gratitude for all the creatures that walk, swim, fly, and crawl on this earth.

We gather seeking wisdom to help us live a generous and compassionate life.

We gather seeking wisdom to help us live together with respect and humility.

We gather seeking hearts and minds that are open to new possibilities and new beginnings.

- *Adapted from "The Possibility of New Beginnings" by Debbie Hubbard*

Hymn: O for a World VU 697

- 1 O for a world where everyone
 respects each other's ways,
 where love is lived and all is done
 with justice and with praise.

- 2 O for a world where goods are shared
 and misery relieved,
 where truth is spoken, children spared,
 equality achieved.

- 3 We welcome one world family
 and struggle with each choice
 that opens us to unity
 and gives our vision voice.

- 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
 the foolish ones are wise.
 Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
 who perishes will rise.

- 5 O for a world preparing for
 God's glorious reign of peace,
 where time and tears will be no more,
 and all but love will cease.

Opening Prayer:

Creator,

We give thanks for the knowledge you give to us
through all the traditions of the world.

Help us to honour the gifts that each tradition offers.

All: We seek to take the path of love.

We give thanks for the east,
for the sun that rises to begin each new day.
We give thanks for new life, for youth.
We give thanks for new learning and new experiences.

All: We seek to take the path of love.

We give thanks for the south,
for the growth of the summertime in our lives,
for the teachings to be kind to ourselves and others.
Help us, who are elders, love and respect children and youth.
Help us to care for the elderly and those who cannot care for themselves.

All: We seek to take the path of love.

We give thanks for the west,
for the understanding of how to care for the earth.
Creator, help us to use this understanding
to bring joy and new life to the world.

All: We seek to take the path of love.

We give thanks for the north.
Help us to receive gifts of wisdom and new perspectives from all peoples.
Help us to grow our roots of compassion deeper as we journey.

All: Together we will take the path of love for ourselves and for each other. Amen.

Land Acknowledgement Video:

<https://nativegov.org/resources/beyond-land-acknowledgment-explainer-video/>

Music Meditation: Larghetto movement, “Indian Canzonetta, or Indian Lament”, from *Sonatina*, by Antonin Dvorak, op. 100. Felicia Urbanski, violin, and Colleen Weber, piano

Children’s Time:

Scripture Readings:

1 Kings 3:5–12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

“Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

Matthew 19:16–22

Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments." "Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Sermon: Indigenous Wisdom

Hymn: O Beautiful Gaia MV 41

Refrain:

O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

1. Soil yielding its harvest,
O Gaia, calling us home.
Soil yielding its harvest,
calling us on.
2. Waves crashing on granite,
O Gaia, calling us home.
Waves crashing on granite,
calling us on.
3. Pine bending in windstorm,
O Gaia, calling us home.
Pine bending in windstorm,
calling us on.
4. Loon nesting in marshland,
O Gaia, calling us home.
Loon nesting in marshland,
calling us on.

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

Creator....

Quiet our hearts. Still our busy minds that we may know your voice.

This morning we give thanks for the winter silence, the quiet snow falling, the light rain. We give thanks for the sounds of children playing outside, the abundance of nature and all that it offers to refresh our spirits.

We give thanks for the presence of the members of the Indigenous Church. We are grateful to them for the courage they have modelled in asking for what they need to continue their journeys of healing and rediscovery.

We remember as well those individuals and families here at Melville United Church and outside this community who are in need of healing and support. May their spirits be lifted. We name them now—aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

We offer now, O God, the deep yearnings of our hearts...those places and situations where we need your guidance and your presence in our own lives and in the lives of the larger community...

Spirit of our yesterdays, our todays, and our tomorrows,
you make all things new.

Transform us during this time of transition—may each of us be wise as we consider the ask of the Indigenous Church, and ask that seeks to build a new relationship—a relationship based on mutual respect, shared hope, and better understanding.

Let us prayer together in the words that Jesus taught us:

Lord's Prayer Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kindom 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 kindom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**

- Bonny Nevett celebrates on Mon Jan 29th
- Rev Lynda Goy-Flint celebrates on Tues Jan 30th
- Ginny Warren celebrates on Wed Jan 31st

Mission Story: The Woodand Cultural Centre, Brantford, Ontario

Offertory Invitation

God calls to us, asking “Whom shall I send?” Our response to God is in our giving of ourselves, our gifts, and our abundance. All are invited to make a financial gift, to share in the work of the church.

Offertory Song: What Can I Do

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.

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.

Blessing

Wherever we journey this week let us be a message of justice and love
Let us listen to the voices of others—especially those who are new to our table and spaces
Let us encourage others with patience.
Let us live our life joyfully.
And as we leave this time and place remember that we are called to bring justice, compassion
and love to the world.
In this task we are not alone. Amen.

Hymn: Live Into Hope VU 699

- 1 Live into hope of captives freed,
 of sight regained, the end of greed.
 The oppressed shall be the first to see
 the year of God's own jubilee!

- 2 Live into hope the blind shall see
 with insight and with clarity,
 removing shades of pride and fear,
 a vision of our God brought near.

- 3 Live into hope of liberty,
 the right to speak, the right to be,
 the right to have one's daily bread,
 to hear God's word and thus be fed.

- 4 Live into hope of captives freed
 from chains of fear or want or greed.
 God now proclaims our full release
 to faith and hope and joy and peace.

Household Prayer:

Hospitality means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines. . . The paradox of hospitality is that it wants to create emptiness, not a fearful emptiness, but a friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free; free to sing their own songs, speak their own languages, dance their own dances; free also to leave and follow their own vocations. Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adore the lifestyle of the host, but the gift of a chance for the guest to find his own.

From *Reaching Out*, by Henri Nouwen.

Welcomers: Vivian and Havey Andrews

Counters: Lara Johnston and David Gohn

Worship Schedule

February 4	Black History Month	Social Justice Committee
February 11	Transfiguration Sunday	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
February 18	Lent 1 / Communion	Rev. Tom Watson
February 25	Lent 2	Rev. Felicia Urbanski