



February 25, 2023

Melville United Church

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Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

Office Administrator

Custodian

Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

Office hours

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

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Melville United Church

February 25, 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.

- **2023 Donation Receipts** for Income Tax is ready, and they will be available at the back of the Sanctuary! If you would like to come by the church during the week to pick it up just let me know before the end of day Thursday, February 29th otherwise I will mail it.
- **Job Opportunity** at Melville United Church for a **part-time Youth Leader**. The candidate will be responsible for leadership and resources in areas of Christian Education for children and youth. The successful applicant will lead Kids' Church on Sundays and plan/attend regular Youth Groups. The Youth Leader will work in collaboration with our ministry team. For the Position Profile and information about applications please email mrthdncn@gmail.com
- The new **Search Team** is in place to find a **long-term supply minister for Melville** while our minister is on leave. We have completed our online training and are meeting regularly to learn the required processes and update the necessary documents. It's exciting to look at life at Melville, to see all we do and all we hope to do. Regular updates will be provided to Council and to the congregation. Thank you for your support and prayers. We are excited to see where it will lead us! Jane O'Leary (chair), Heather Halls, Chris Hopewell, Lara Johnston, Alison Rainford, David Ogilvie.
- We're excited to share **Melville's February/March Newsletter** with you! You can read it online here: <https://melvilleunited.com/2024/02/23/melville-newsletter-february-2024> For those not on our email list (the grapevine), printed copies of the newsletter will be available at the back of the church this Sunday. We'd greatly appreciate your help in hand-delivering these copies to those who are unable to attend in person.
- **UCW meat pies** are available \$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, February 28 from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m.** here at Melville. Brad will continue his musical voyage through the last 100 years of the Broadway musical, and on this coming Wednesday, he will present selections from classic musicals from the 1964 Broadway season. That one year alone marked the debut of three of Broadway's legendary productions, setting all time box office records, including "*Hello, Dolly!*", "*Fiddler on the Roof*" and "*Funny Girl*", as well as some less famous shows such as "*High Spirits*", "*Anyone Can Whistle*" and more. Come and enjoy classic Broadway music such as "*If I Were a Rich Man*", "*People*", "*Hello, Dolly*", "*Who Can I Turn To?*" 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.

- **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.
- **World Day of Prayer Friday March 1st, 2024**, 2:00 P.M. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Fergus. The service was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Palestine. The Theme: I Beg you Bear With One Another in Love. Guest Speaker: Rev. Peter Bush. Time of fellowship will follow the service. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.
- **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>

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.

Lighting the Christ Candle (responsive)

In times of struggle,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

In times of wonder,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

In times of anxious anticipation,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

In this time and place, here and now, and in all the days of our lives,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

As we continue to journey toward the cross, let the light of this Christ candle remind us of who we are and whose we are: struggling, wondering, and anxiously anticipating people of the Way.

Call to Worship:

Welcome to worship. However you enter into worship today, come! Come whether you are troubled, grieving, or anxious about your health, family, or finances, or whether you are celebrating, excited, and happy. May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds during this time of worship. May you know God's Spirit embracing you as we sing and prayer together.

Hymn: Take Up Your Cross VU 561

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.

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.

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.

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.

Opening Prayer:

God of the Lenten journey, we praise you. We set our intention to follow the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus through this sacred and holy season. You gave us Jesus to teach us about true worship and surrender. You call us out of our wilderness and into your community. You humble our hearts and open our spirits during this sacred time. Your challenge is to repent and to prepare to be spiritually reborn. You call us to renew our commitment to our covenantal relationship with you, a relationship rooted in the teachings and Way of Jesus. All praise, honour, and glory are yours, O God, for the blessing of your transformative love. Amen.

Ministry of Music: River in Judea *lyrics by Linda Marcus, music by Jack Feldman, arranged by John Leavitt*

Children's Time

Hymn When We are Tested MV 65

(sung to the tune of *Be Thou My Vision*, VU 642)

1. When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.
2. When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.
3. When we are tempted to barter our souls,

trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.

4. When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Saviour, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

Scripture: Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Sermon: Bearing One Another's Burdens

Hymn: O Jesus, I Have Promised VU 120

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end,
remain forever near me, my Saviour and my friend.
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me, the world is ever near,
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within.
But, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking, in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control,
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end,
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Song: What Can I Do

MV191

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.

Blessing

Go in peace. And on your journey, may you have the boldness to come to Jesus just as you are, ready to be transformed into followers led by the Holy Spirit who journey through this world in peace, in faith, and in love.

May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forevermore.

Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness VU 288

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!

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.

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!

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.

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!

Household Prayer

When we believe in a deep way that life is good, God is good, and humanity is good, we do exciting and imaginative things because we are confident that we are part of a storyline that is going somewhere good. As Christians, we have the opportunity to live the story given to us at the very beginning (Genesis 1), that creation is “good,” even “very good,” and that it is our vocation to nurture and grow such goodness wherever we can.

~ Richard Rohr

Welcomers: Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Karen Smillie, Chris Hopewell

Worship Schedule

March 3	Lent 3	Rev. Marion Loree
March 10	Lent 4 / Pie Day	Rev. Tom Watson
March 17	Lent 5	Rev. Tom Watson
March 24	Lent 6 / Palm Sunday	Rev. Felicia Urbanski