



**February 4, 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](mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com)

[www.melvilleunited.com](http://www.melvilleunited.com)

Melville United Church  
February 4, 2024  
**Black History Month Celebration**  
"It Takes One Voice to Initiate Change"

---

*Presented by Melville Social Justice Team 2024*  
*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.

- **UCW meat pies** are available now. \$5 each. Buy after church or contact Marg 519-843-3274 or [margfrayne@hotmail.com](mailto:margfrayne@hotmail.com)
- The music series "**Mid-Day Music at Melville**" presented by pianist Brad Halls returns on **Wednesday, February 7 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 1957 to 1959, including some of the most enduring and frequently revived shows in Broadway – shows such as "*West Side Story*", "*Gypsy*", "*The Music Man*" and "*The Sound of Music*" among several others. Enjoy wonderful songs including "*Til There Was You*", "*Somewhere*", "*Everything's Coming Up Roses*" and "*Climb Every Mountain*" and 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](https://habitatgw.ca/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities) or email [volunteer@habitatgw.ca](mailto: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>

## Acknowledgement Of Territory

We acknowledge that we live on the Traditional land of the Petun, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabewaki, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Odawa and Mississauga people. We gather for worship, Creator, on this land with thanksgiving in our hearts. We acknowledge our responsibility to live in balance with Nature and to forge new relations with those who can teach us so much about respecting Creation.

**Lighting The Christ Candle** *(adapted from the hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say," lyrics by Horatius Bonar)*

We heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest. Lay down, you weary one, lay down your head. With pitying eyes the Prince of Peace beheld our grief. He saw, and O amazing love! He came to our relief. And the light from the lighthouse shone on us and led us out of the storm safely to the shore." It only takes one to initiate change.

**Opening Prayer**

Loving Creator, we gather to celebrate Black History Month, and we come in thanksgiving and with reverence. As we meet today we pray that our hearts be opened to hearing the stories—current and past—of Black siblings. We celebrate and honour them, for all they have contributed to our world, our villages, and personally to us. Bless our time this day, in the reading of scripture, the prayers of our hearts, and the joy of meeting each other, in this village where you have made your presence known, Amen.

**Ministry of Music Choir: Come, Now Is the Time to Worship** *with words and music by Brian Doerksen*

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Merciful God, we come with humble hearts, bringing our shortcomings and failures. We confess that at times we have hindered another's blessing by the words we speak and the actions we have undertaken. Forgive us when we have failed to support, encourage, or uplift those in need. Forgive us when we have undermined the dreams and aspirations of others or when we have withheld our assistance out of fear and indifference. In your grace lead us to a path of restoration and healing, Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: This Little Light of Mine** *Harold Dixon Loes (Source: One in Faith #874)*

This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Ev'rywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Ev'rywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

## Childrens' Time

### Scripture: Psalm 71: 1-6

- <sup>1</sup>In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.
- <sup>2</sup>In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;  
turn your ear to me and save me.
- <sup>3</sup>Be my rock of refuge,  
to which I can always go;  
give the command to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.
- <sup>4</sup>Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.
- <sup>5</sup>For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord,  
my confidence since my youth.
- <sup>6</sup>From birth I have relied on you;  
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.  
I will ever praise you.

### Acts 10: 34-35

- <sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup>but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

### Matthew 5:16

- <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

### Hymn Over My Head MV 88

#### Refrain

Over my head, I hear music in the air. (3X)  
There must be a God somewhere.

- 1 When the storms of life are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the storms of live are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the storms of life are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere. (Refrain)
2. When the winds of strife are blowin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the storms of live are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the storms of life are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere. (Refrain)

3. When the tide of hate is risin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the storms of live are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the storms of life are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere. (Refrain)
  
4. O Jesus is a-callin'  
I hear music in the air.  
O Jesus is a-callin'  
I hear music in the air.  
O Jesus is a-callin'  
I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere. (Refrain)

### **Reflection:**

#### **Slavery in Canada**

Slavery existed in Canada for hundreds of years. Yes, hundreds of years. Indigenous Peoples were bought, sold and enslaved for many years before the Transatlantic Slave Trade began. That is not something we read in our history books and is a topic for future discussions. Today we focus on the immense affect the Transatlantic Slave Trade had on the lives and future generations of our Black siblings. We now know that thousands of Africans were captured and transported to Great Britain, France, the French Antilles, and North America in the 17th century and it is estimated that more than 4,000 Black men, women, and children were held in slavery in what is now Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick as early as 1628. These enslaved Black individuals were not directly brought to what is now Canada, but were brought here with slave owners from the other regions mentioned.

A well-storied event took place in Queenston, near today's Niagara-on-the-Lake, involving a Black enslaved woman, Chloe Cooley. Cooley was being transported across the river to a new slave owner and resisted vehemently. She was struck, bound and gagged by the owner and thrown into a boat. Because of her loud and forceful objections, a witness, Peter Martin, a free Black man, along with a white man, William Grisley, reported the cruel incident to Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simco. After a great deal of attention and pushback, Upper Canada passed the limited Act Against Slavery in 1793 which did not end slavery but did ban new enslavement and the importation of enslaved individuals. In 1834 slavery was abolished in most of the British Empire and Canadian colonies. Chloe Cooley and Peter Martin were very brave individuals.

**It only takes ONE voice to initiate change. But TWO are even better.**

#### **The Underground Railway**

After the American Revolution, enslaved individuals began to make their way to northern states and to what we now call Canada. In the early 1800s Canada was known as Canaan by many and thought of as a safe haven for the enslaved. Seeking freedom, many enslaved people travelled secretly to Canada (and other regions in North America) where slavery was abolished, via a somewhat invisible network known as the Underground Railway. There are many theories

about who helped these individuals, and how they were helped along their journey. One theory is that quilts with different patterns were hung on the line outside safe houses. Some of these quilts may have been made with blocks that could indicate a message to travellers, such as Bear Paw which meant follow animal tracks or Log Cabin which meant stay here, it's safe. Of course one well known name, Harriet Tubman, is synonymous with The Underground Railway. Tubman, using secret resources and codes, helped over 100 enslaved people to freedom. One code she used to warn individuals of danger was to sing "Wade in the Waters". This meant they needed to get off a trail and into the water so dogs would lose their scent. It is also said that during The American Civil War Tubman was involved in a raid that led to freedom for hundreds of enslaved Black men.

**It only takes ONE voice to initiate change.**

### **Segregation**

Segregation did exist in Canada. As many newly free Black individuals arrived in Canada they began to settle in certain areas and small towns. Parents wanted to send their children to school but many were denied access to "White" schools. Even some universities denied admission to Black individuals, especially in the fields of nursing and medicine. During the 1940s and 1950s both Nova Scotia and Ontario brought forth legislation to create segregated or separate schools which lasted decades. Of course many parents objected to the law and tried to sue the government or school boards. In 1964 Leonard Braithwaite, a Canadian lawyer and the first Black Canadian to be elected to the Ontario Legislature, was instrumental in segregation laws being abolished. . [1]

**It only takes ONE voice to initiate change.**

### **Race Riots**

Race riots existed in Canada. In fact, the first recorded race riot in North America was on July 26, 1784, in Nova Scotia. It lasted for about 10 days. White and Black Loyalist refugees were entering Canada. They were given provisions to live and were promised plots of land. Well, the provisions were not equally distributed -Black refugees received much less- and it soon became apparent that the plots of land were not going to be equal and were a long time coming. Free Black refugees began to find jobs as did White refugees. This created a lot of animosity and tension amongst the Whites.

Along came a Black Baptist preacher, David George who established and built a Baptist Church in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. George was very popular and accumulated a large following of Black people and some Whites. With tensions high, a riot began when a group of White Loyalists stormed the home of George, who was baptizing White Loyalists. The rioting mob tore down the houses of 20 other free Black Loyalists living on the church's property and physically attacked George. George continued preaching and was part of a project to return many enslaved people back to Sierra Leone.

**It only takes ONE voice to initiate change.**

### **Civil Right Activists**

Viola Desmond was a Black Canadian activist. Desmond went to school, became a teacher, and a successful businesswoman who eventually created a cosmetic line. She was travelling for

work on one occasion and decided to stay the night in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. While there, she went to the theatre and sat in the “Whites only” section. Desmond was arrested, jailed overnight and paid a fine. This courageous act seemed to awaken more Canadians to the struggle for rights in Canada. In 2010, the Government of Nova Scotia issued an apology, a posthumous pardon and in 2016 the federal government announced that Desmond would be commemorated on the newly designed \$10 bill.

**It only takes ONE voice to initiate change.** That voice, and then another added to it, creates a ripple effect and keeps the change going. Even if protests and court decisions don’t work, we can be sure that there will be judgement.

## References

<https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/underground-railroad-quilt-codes>  
[http://www.biograp,hi.ca/en/bio/george\\_david\\_5E.html](http://www.biograp,hi.ca/en/bio/george_david_5E.html)  
<https://parks.canada.ca/culture/designation/personnage-person/chloe-cooley>  
<https://parks.canada.ca/culture/designation/personnage-person/viola-desmond>  
[https://www.google.com/search?gs\\_ssp=eJzj4tLP1TcwTo7PyCgyYPSSTkksy0xRSE\\_NL0pPVUjKS\\_UzOVsjr0zMySwuAQAU4w4s&q=david+george+black+loyalist&rlz=1CAKDUD\\_enCA939&oq=david+george+&gs\\_lcrp=EgZiaHJvbWUqBwgEEC4YgAQyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQLhiABDIHCAIQABiABDIHCAMQLhiABDIHCAQQLhiABDIHCAUQABiABDIHCAYQLhiABDIJCacQLhgKGAEMgcICBAuGIAE0gEJNTE5NzBqMGo3qAIAAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?gs_ssp=eJzj4tLP1TcwTo7PyCgyYPSSTkksy0xRSE_NL0pPVUjKS_UzOVsjr0zMySwuAQAU4w4s&q=david+george+black+loyalist&rlz=1CAKDUD_enCA939&oq=david+george+&gs_lcrp=EgZiaHJvbWUqBwgEEC4YgAQyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQLhiABDIHCAIQABiABDIHCAMQLhiABDIHCAQQLhiABDIHCAUQABiABDIHCAYQLhiABDIJCacQLhgKGAEMgcICBAuGIAE0gEJNTE5NzBqMGo3qAIAAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)  
<https://humanrights.ca/story/story-black-slavery-canadian-history>  
<https://www.historymuseum.ca/virtual-museum-of-new-france/population/slavery/#:~:text=The%20historian%20Marcel%20Trudel%20catalogued,the%20course%20of%20this%20period.>  
[https://d3d0lqu00lnqvz.cloudfront.net/media/studyguides/Black\\_History\\_in\\_Canada\\_Education\\_Guide\\_FINAL\\_Individual\\_Pages.pdf](https://d3d0lqu00lnqvz.cloudfront.net/media/studyguides/Black_History_in_Canada_Education_Guide_FINAL_Individual_Pages.pdf)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harriet\\_Tubman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harriet_Tubman)

## Hymn: I’m Gonna Live so God Can Use me VU 575

- 1 I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 2 I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

## **Invitation to Give**

The struggle continues in different forms, but just like those before us, we will continue to work for equal rights and justice for all. When we see injustice, it is the prompting of the Spirit for us to do something about it. During the time of offering, consider having a free will offering in support of a local organization working toward anti-Black racism in Canada.

## **Offertory: Grant Us, God, the Grace VU 540**

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.**

## **Offertory Prayer**

**Loving God, accept these gifts. Bless them and use them  
to bring peace to places of unrest, love to places of hate,  
joy to places of fear,  
hope to places of loss, and equal rights and justice for all.  
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen**

## **Mission Story**

### **Prayers Of the People:**

**L:** How good it is to sing praises of your goodness, God; even when we feel ashamed of our fellow humans who in the past initiated, participated, sustained and perpetuated the forcible removal of over 10 million Africans from their homes for trade across the Atlantic?

**P: We come with many names: terms of endearment that we cherish and labels that we seek to one day destroy.**

**L:** But you call us by one name, Beloved. We remember your healing acts of salvation.

**P: We remember how you gathered the dislocated and dispersed Black peoples to build communities and relearn cultures that were torn away.**

**P: We remember heroes and she-roes, who's actions have brought freedom and equality closer to Black people in our society.**

**L:** We remember how your everlasting love healed the self-esteem and rebuilt the self-worth of Black peoples who were stripped of their human rights and dignity.

**P: We remember that you continue to heal the brokenhearted and bind up the wounds of those who have been wounded, abused, and denied because of the shade of their skin, even today.**

**L:** Like Jesus,

**P: Give us the grace to follow through on our plans to be an anti-racist denomination and make the sacrifices necessary to make this a reality.**

**L:** We offer to you all the things that we can no longer carry on our own: our burdens, our worries, and our concerns. We offer to you all the situations that we feel ill-equipped for. We pray specifically for... (*congregation-specific prayers*).

**ALL: Strengthen our weary souls, and remind us once more that you fight with us and you will never leave us nor forsake us in the struggle. Give us a double share of your Spirit to carry out this calling.**

**L:** When we see injustice and unjust acts in our community, let the light of Christ that changed us through us change the world...

**ALL: ...and remind us that it takes ONE voice to initiate change. Amen.**



### Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays

- Don Kruger celebrates on Sun Feb 11th

### Hymn: My Lord What a Morning VU 708

My Lord, what a morning.

My Lord, what a morning.

My Lord, what a morning

when the stars begin to fall.

1 You'll hear the trumpet sound  
to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand  
when the stars begin to fall. R

2 You'll hear the sinner cry  
to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand  
when the stars begin to fall. R

### Commissioning & Benediction

Although the road is long and the journey is hard, although the mountains are high and the valleys are low,

**By your grace, give us hope. By your power, give us strength. By your mercy, give us wisdom so that we may continue to go where you lead us, until all your children are safe from harm.**

**May we go with your light shining in us, as we carry justice and equality into the world to bring about change with our voice. Amen.**

### Choral Blessing: Kumbaya (Sung Together)

Someone's singing Lord, Kumbaya x3

Oh Lord, Kumbaya

Someone's praying, Lord, Kumbaya x3

Oh Lord, Kumbaya

It Takes One Voice to Initiate Change: Black History Month Sam Cooke:

[www.youtube.com/embed/YEx5pLLTDo](http://www.youtube.com/embed/YEx5pLLTDo) © 2021 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice.

All biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

© 2021 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice. All biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**Welcomers:** Alison Rainford, John Cuming

**Counters:** Karen Smillie, Kaillie Rawn

### Worship Schedule

February 11	Transfiguration Sunday	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
February 18	Lent 1 / Communion	Rev. Tom Watson
February 25	Lent 2	Rev. Felicia Urbanski