



*Celebrating
178 Years*



March 24, 2024

Melville United Church

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Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

Office Administrator

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Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

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

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Melville United Church

March 24th, 2024

*Presiding: Rev. Felicia Urbanski
Musician: Suzanne Flewelling and Friends*

Welcome

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

Announcements:

- **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>
- **UCW meat pies** are available \$5 each. Buy after church or contact Marg 519-843-3274 or margfrayne@hotmail.com
- The next performance in the music series "**Mid-Day Music at Melville**" presented by pianist Brad Halls will be presented on **Wednesday, March 27 from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m.** at Melville United Church in Fergus. 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 Broadway seasons between 1976 and 1980. Come and enjoy selections from hit productions such as "Annie", "Ain't Misbehavin'", "Evita" and "Sweeney Todd" among others. Come and enjoy classic Broadway music such as "Tomorrow", "Honeysuckle Rose", "Don't Cry for Me Argentina", "Not While I'm Around" 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.

Take note that this season of "Mid-Day Music at Melville" will conclude with the performance of April 10, and will resume on the first Wednesday of October this coming fall. Thank you our very loyal and growing audience for your support of this concert series, and for your generous contributions to our host, Melville United Church for the use of their beautiful space.

- **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 Bevcarr
- **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 Bevcarr 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.

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

Call to Worship (responsive)

He came riding on a donkey...

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

No one knew what to think...

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

But they knew that something extraordinary was going on, something worth laying down one's cloak, something worth tearing the branches of the palm trees and waving them in the air...

Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hymn: He Came Riding on a Donkey VU 124

1. He came riding on a donkey, He came riding into town
Slow and easy, kind of lowly, He came riding with the dawn
His disciples walked beside him, staying close, a little shy
Not too sure where he would guide them, On to live or on to die
But all the morning sang his praises, waking birds and dancing wind
Here he is, the Son of David, riding on to take his throne

2. Then the children gathered singing, shouts of laughter bursting cheer
In the streets their song was ringing: Hosannas filled the morning air.
Timid adults strained to see him, caught the Spirit, joined the song
Spread their cloaks along before him, branches flashing in the sun.
So all the city sang his praises, waking streets and dancing crowd
Here he is, the Son of David, our Messiah, Son of God.
3. In our fasting and our feasting, called to follow in his way
Called to walk his road to Easter, called to live his cross today
Hosanna to the Son of David, Hosanna in the heavens above,
Blessed is he who comes to save us, blessed is he who brings his love
Let us join to sing his praises, open hearts and souls to God
He is with us, Son of David, God's anointed, Christ the Lord!

Opening Prayer:

Great Spirit, Lover of life, Creator of beauty and wonder, we come with our praise and our hopes, waving our palms, and celebrating the joy of spring. We know what lies ahead: we know that we will forget to love our enemies; we know that we will overlook your commandments. We will lose heart with ourselves and others as the way gets harder. Great Love of Life, Holy Teacher, help us to open ourselves to your presence so we can remember you when the day of rejoicing is done. May the challenges of sharing in the way of the cross lead us ever closer to your heart. Amen.

Music Ministry *Jesus Hold My Hand*

Children's Time

Scripture (First Reading): Matthew 21: 1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Hymn: *Go to Dark Gethsemane* VU 133

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, you that feel the tempter's power
Your Redeemer's conflict we, watch with him one bitter hour
Turn not from his grief away: learn from him to watch and pray.
2. See him at the judgement hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned.
See him meekly bearing all, love to all his soul sustained.
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss: learn from Christ to bear the cross.
3. Calvary's mournful mountain view, there the Lord of glory see,
Made a sacrifice for you, dying on the accused tree.
"It is finished", hear his cry: trust in Christ and learn to die.

Scripture (Second Reading): Mark 14: 32-50

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me, yet not what I want but what you want." He came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived, and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All of them deserted him and fled.

Sermon: "Triumph to Tragedy to Celebration"

Music Ministry: *I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Offertory Invitation

The Bible speaks of sacrificial giving, and I think it is to that kind of giving that each of us is called. In these Lenten days, let's offer not only our monetary gifts but also ourselves, into the hands of the one who gave himself for us. Our offerings will now be given and gratefully received.

Offertory Song: Beneath the Cross of Jesus (VU 135)

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand:
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.

Offertory Prayer

Benediction and Commissioning (responsive)

As we keep near the cross, watching and waiting, hoping and trusting,
we know that your glory, O God, will be revealed.

In one hand, we clutch the palms and cry, "Hosanna!";

In the other we clutch the nails and cry "Crucify!"

Go from here in the love that is constant.

At our best, at our worst, you keep us, Holy One.

The Christ who stretches out wounded hands and walks on wounded feet goes with us now, and always. Amen, go in peace.

Hymn: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* VU 142

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

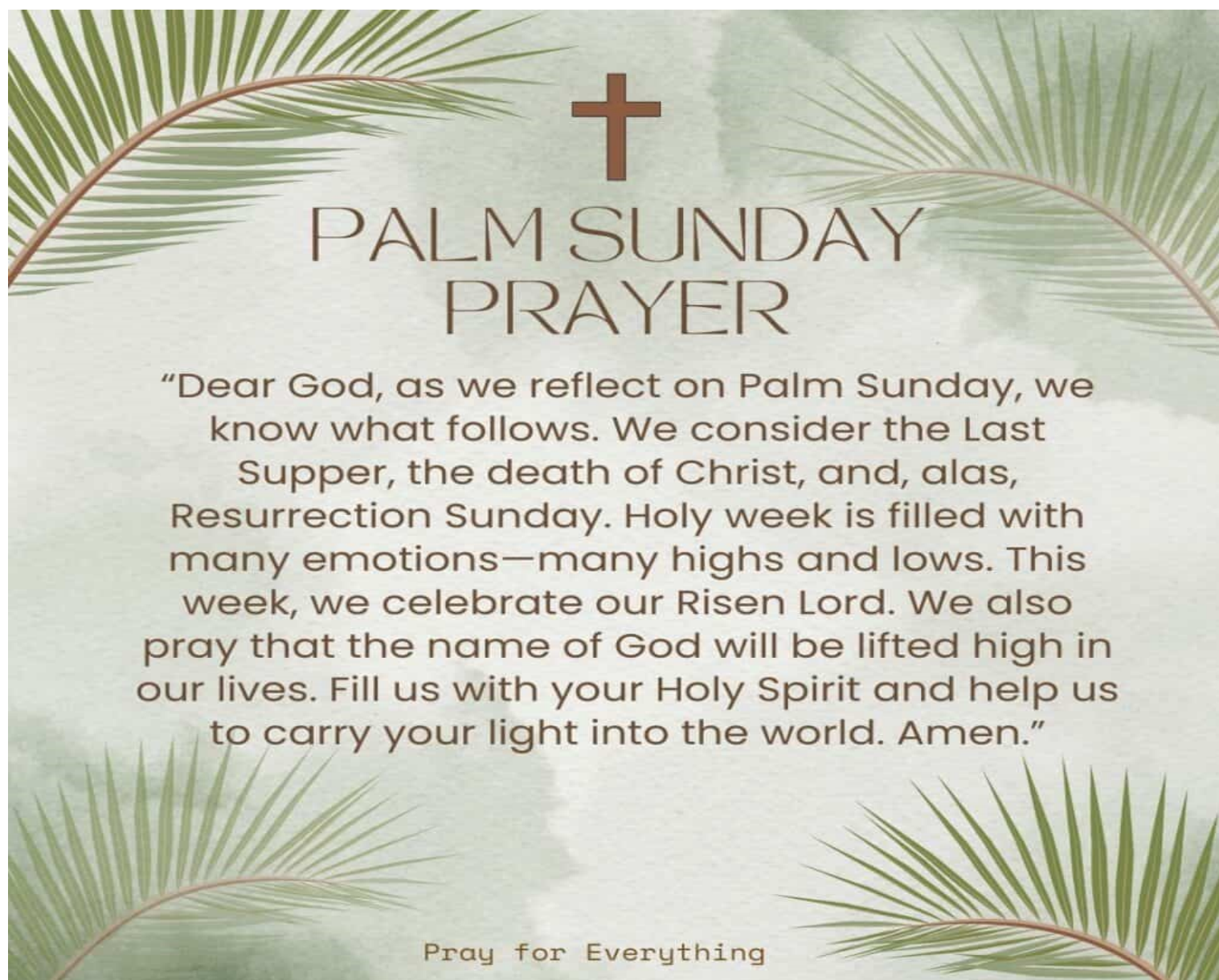
2. Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning Star
Sheds its beams around me. [Refrain]

3. Near the cross! O lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]

4. Near the cross! I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever;
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river. [Refrain]

Postlude *The Old Country Church*

Household Prayer



Welcomers: Barb Gregory and Patty Foster

Counters: David Gohn and Phil Brown

Worship Schedule

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|------------|--|-------------------|
| March 29 | Good Friday 10:00am | Rev. Tom Watson |
| March 31 | Easter Sunday | Rev. Jeff Hawkins |
| April 7th | 2 nd Sunday of Easter/Baptism | Rev. Marion Loree |
| April 14th | Social Justice | Martha Duncan |

