



**March 3, 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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**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, March 3, 2024.**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

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Presiding today, Rev. Marion Loree

\* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*  
**Bold print invites congregational response.**

**Prelude**

**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.

- **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](mailto: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.
- **UCW meat pies** are available \$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, March 6th 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 Broadway seasons of 1965 and 1966. Notable productions of the period include the ground-breaking "*Cabaret*", the romantic "*Do I Hear a Waltz?*" and hits such as "*Mame*", "*Man of La Mancha*", "*Sweet Charity*" and others. Come and enjoy classic Broadway music such as "*The Impossible Dream*", "*On a Clear Day*", "*If He Walked Into My Life*", "*Ey Big Spender*" 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.
- **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 Acknowledgment (on video)

<https://melvilleunited.com/2024/01/19/land-acknowledgement>

#### Celebrations & Concerns

- **Birthdays**
  - Galina Terekhov celebrates on Mon Mar 4th
  - Helen Thompson celebrates on Mon Mar 4th
  - Linda Porritt celebrates on Wed Mar 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Sharing the Light

##### Call to Worship:

Through sun and shadow,  
**God's love will remain.**  
 Through torrent and thunder,  
**God's love will remain.**  
 Through fog and flurries,  
**God's love will remain.**  
 Through breeze and bluster,  
**God's love will remain.**  
 Through cloudy and clear,  
**God's love will remain.**  
 Through rain and rainbow,  
**God's love will remain.**  
 Through all that life brings,  
**God's love will remain.**  
 Come, let us worship God together.

**\*Hymn: Song of Sky (tune VU 514) (words by Norman Habel 1999)**

**Lord of suns and star exploding  
 Galaxies and swirling skies,  
 Where you chose to show your glory  
 Took the heavens by surprise.  
 Lord of solar winds and wisdom,  
 Super stars that blow our mind,  
 Choosing such a fragile planet**

**Hardly seems a grand design.**

**On this piece of stardust swirling,  
On this spinning spot in space,  
Life itself was born like music,  
When you showed your hidden face.  
What an honour to be chosen,  
Silent planet blue and green,  
Filled with glory, grace and gardens,  
Where the breath of God is seen.**

**What is even more amazing  
We have poisoned Earth like fools.  
Help us change our way of living,  
Love the Earth and love her rules.  
Help us stem the tide of traders  
Leaving Earth an empty store;  
Join us now Creator Spirit,  
Come renew your Earth once more.**

**Opening Prayer and Prayer for Healing:**

God, our Creator, as we look into the heavens

**we celebrate the wonders of the worlds that surround us.**

Help us to see your presence in the evening sky,

**your spirit in the wind,**

your mercy in the falling rain.

**Teach us to celebrate your presence in all things.**

Rejoice with us as we behold the dawn

**revealing the mysteries of the skies above and Earth below.**

Holy One, you cradle each of us with remarkable hope.

**You wrap each of us in a deep, mysterious love.**

You wipe away each tear with infinite gentleness -

**not only our tears but the tears of the creatures, the forest and the seas.** Forgive us  
for our ignorance and our insensitivity to the tears of the life around us.

**Forgive us and teach us compassion. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

As we come home to Earth.

**God is with us.**

As we seek to love our home.

**God is with us.**

As we seek to care for our kin.

**God is with us.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Ministry of Music: Precious Savior, Dear Redeemer based on Come Thou Fount of Every  
Blessing** *Arrangement by Susan W. Henry. Performed by LindaMae Ogilvie*

**Children's Time:** Have you seen God today?

**Song: I Can Feel You Near Me God MV 48**

1. I can feel you near me God I can feel you near  
Yes I know you're with me God I feel you here  
I can feel you near me God I can feel you near  
Yes I know you're with me God Heaven is here.

And I'll jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia  
Jump for joy for you I will jump for joy  
I'm singing Alleluia Jump for joy for you.

2. I can feel you loving me yes I know you care  
God I know you're loving me always everywhere  
I can feel you loving me yes I know you care  
God I know you're loving me I know you're there.

And I'll jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia  
Jump for joy for you I will jump for joy  
I'm singing Alleluia Jump for joy for you.

**Hebrew Scripture:** Jeremiah 4:23-28

(When the heavens mourn)

"I looked at the earth", says YHWH - it was chaos and emptiness. I looked to the heavens - their light was gone. I looked to the mountains - they quaked, and the hills swayed back and forth. I looked - I saw no one. Nothing! All the birds had flown away. I looked - the fertile land was desert. All its towns laid waste before YHWH, before God's fierce wrath. Thus says YHWH: "The whole land will be desolate, but I will not completely destroy it. So the earth mourns and the heavens above turn black. For I made known my intentions. I made up my mind. I will not turn back."

**Epistle Reading:** Philippians 2:14-16a

(Shine like stars)

In everything you do, act without grumbling or arguing; prove yourselves innocent and straightforward, children of God beyond reproach, in the midst of a twisted and depraved generation - among which you shine like stars in the sky, while holding fast to the word of life.

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 19 (A paraphrase by James Taylor from *Everyday Psalms*)

(The heavens are telling the glory of God)

"The heavens declare the glory of God,

**and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork..."**

The whole earth is God's textbook. From the edges of the atmosphere to the core of the planet, the wonders of the world expand our understanding.

**Rocks have no words, nor do cells have syllables, yet their message can be read anywhere.**

Even the fiery stars, racing through space, yield their secrets to those whose minds are open to the mysteries of God's universe. An underlying harmony,

**a delicate equilibrium built on the value of every thing,**  
binds together past, present, and future.

**There are no exceptions.**

No one is above the universal law of interdependence.

**Nothing stands alone.**

Life dies and becomes new life.

**Spirit and flesh are one.**

My life is inextricably linked to yours,

**and our common survival is tied to the trees and insects.**

This is the beginning of wisdom.

**It is better than wealth, more valuable than possessions.**

Awareness of it will change you forever.

**But we are too often deaf;**

we close our ears to the voices of the winds and waves,

**to the insights of the rocks and the plants.**

God, keep us from thinking we know it all - an assembly of facts does not equal truth. Human minds cannot encompass eternity.

**Keep us always open to wonder, to beauty, and to mystery, oh Greatest of Mysteries.**

### **Message: The Heaven's Are Telling**

**\*Hymn: This is God's Wondrous World**

**VU 296**

- 1 This is God's wondrous world,  
and to my listening ears  
    all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world;  
I rest me in the thought  
    of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.
- 2 This is God's wondrous world:  
the birds their carols raise;  
    the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
God shines in all that's fair;  
    in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.
- 3 This is God's wondrous world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
    that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.

This is God's wondrous world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

**Invitation to Offering:**

**\*Offering Hymn: What Can I Do?** 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. (Repeat)**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

Gracious God, we thank you for your many gifts to us:  
**the unfolding of day and night;**  
the smell of a meal being prepared;  
**the voice of a friend greeting us;**  
the feel of a cool breeze against our cheeks.  
**These, and so many more, fill our days.**  
We offer these gifts as an expression of our deep thanks  
**and our concern for those in need,**  
**including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. Amen.**

**Prayer Prelude: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying** VU 400

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

**Prayer's of the People: Coming to Our Senses** -by Bruce Sanguin from *If Darwin Prayed* (based on Luke 15:11-32)

**Lord's Prayer:**

**\*Hymn: God Who gives to Life Its Goodness** VU 260

- 1 God who gives to life its goodness,  
God creator of all joy,  
God who gives to us our freedom,  
God who blesses tool and toy:  
teach us now to laugh and praise you,  
deep within your praises sing,  
till the whole creation dances  
for the goodness of its King.
- 2 God who fills the earth with beauty,  
God who binds each friend to friend,  
God who names us co-creators  
God who wills that chaos end:

grant us now creative spirits,  
minds responsive to your mind,  
hearts and wills your rule extending  
all our acts by Love refined.

**Sending Forth:**

May the rain of kindness fall upon you.  
May each cloud spark your imagination.  
May the stars' light give you strength.  
May the bright blue sky bring you peace.  
Amen.

**\*Parting Song:** When You Walk from Here VU 298

**When you walk from here,  
when you walk from here,  
walk with justice, walk with mercy,  
and with God's humble care.**

**Prayer of the Week:**

Creator God, you desire to be in relationship with us, and for us to be awestruck by your beauty. May our attention move upward and outward to notice you and your handiwork in the sky, in the stars and in the warmth of the sun. May we be reminded that you delight in all of creation and speak beyond words. Guide us to respond and to be claimed by wonder and connection to you and each other. Amen.

**Welcomers:** Alison Rainford and Barb Gregory

**Counters:** Kaillie Rawn and Patty Foster

**Worship Schedule**

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