



*Celebrating
178 Years*



April 14, 2024

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

www.melvilleunited.com

Earth Sunday Service: For the Love of Creation

From For the Love of Creation, Earth Sunday Service, 2023. Adapted from the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, "Be the Church: Protect the Environment" worship service. © 2016 Rev.

April 14, 2024

Social Justice Team

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.

- **Rev. Marion Loree** is here on Fridays during Coffee Hour and is also available for an hour or two afterwards.
- **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.
- Please note that this season of "Mid-Day Music at Melville" concluded with the performance of April 10th and will resume again on the first Wednesday of October this coming fall, when Brad will lead a similar 100-year trip through "Music from the Movies". Thank you to 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.
- Please join us for a **Lasagna Luncheon May 5** following the service, hosted by Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber and UCW. Lunch will be held in the Chapel and Parlour. Please join us for fun and fellowship!
- **Centre Wellington Singers** will take you on a Journey Through the British Isles offering you a medley of rousing music from across the pond. On this journey some of the selections you will hear are: "The Lark in the Clear Air", "My Heart is in the Highlands" and Danny Boy. Special Guests: Felicia Urbanski accompanying some of the choir selections on violin, and Baritone, Paul Grambo. This is a concert not to be missed. **Saturday April 27th, 3:00 P.M.** at Melville United Church. Tickets: Millie Cumming, Lara Johnson, and Lillian Gohn
- **Friday, May 3 at 7:30 pm:** The Fellowship Committee of Bethel Mennonite Church invites you to join us for an evening of **Inspiration, music, and pie!** as we welcome motivational speaker **Gord Martin** to share his story, "**The Pain and Joy of a Father**". Gord is the author of "**Doing it Afraid**" and he will have copies of his book available to purchase. We will have special music and a time of fellowship with coffee and pie after the presentation. **Everyone Welcome!** Location: Bethel Mennonite Church, 6772 Eighth Line W. RR1, Elora, ON.

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

Lighting of Christ Candle

Call to Worship

One: Whether we live near mountains or in the prairies—

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether our winters are balmy or our summers are cool—

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean or somewhere in the middle—

All: We are one in Christ.

One: Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape—

All: We are one in Christ.

One: In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation—

All: We are one in Christ.

—Adapted from the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, "[Be the Church: Protect the Environment](#)" worship service. © 2016 Rev. Michelle L. Torigian. Free to use with attribution.

Opening Prayer

As we gather, we are thankful for your Creation:

for light and darkness;

for air, wind, and sky;

for earth and sea;

for seeds, harvests, and plant life;

for sunlight, moonlight, and starlight;

for every living creature, swarming, flying, creeping, and grazing;

for our lives.

In our actions, meditations, and prayers,

may we honour and celebrate your very good Creation,

as we seek wisdom on how to share our gratitude and love in good and healing ways.

Amen.

—Written by Alydia Smith. From Alydia Smith, ed., *Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis* (Toronto: United Church Publishing House, 2023), p. 127. Free to use with attribution.

Opening Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

VU 226

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

- 2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, R
- 3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, R
- 4 For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, R

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace

Creator God,

we come before you in a time of crisis.

We know that much of your creation struggles;

we begin to see and acknowledge the changes around us;

we search for the causes and the cures and the collaborative ways we can commit to care for creation.

We want to do what's right

but we don't always know what that is

or agree how best to do it.

Help us learn what we must,

listening to the diverse voices of creation itself.

Help us understand and love what you have loved and called "very good."

Enliven that understanding, we ask,

to allow ourselves to be moved to act as we should and to halt actions that harm.

Guide us as we try to discern how best to truly listen to each other as well as creation and heed your call.

We ask for forgiveness where we have taken too much or cared too little,

for hearts willing to listen and change and will to follow through.

May the knowledge of your presence and the assurance of your love
shape our time here and always.

We pray in your name, Amen.

—Adapted from Cláudio Carvalhaes, "[Lenten Journey with the Earth through the Stations of the Cross](#)" (Lent 2021 blog), [claudiocarvalhaes.com](#). Free to use with attribution.

Hymn: Like a Rock (words: Keri Wehlander, adapt to music: Linnea Good)

Like a rock, like a rock God is under our feet

Like the starry night sky God is over our head

Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before

Like the river runs to ocean our home is in god evermore

Time with Children

Ministry of Music: Spirit God, Be Our Breath (Embracing Change) performed by Spirit Sings

Scripture: John 10:11–18

Reflection

This Earth Week, for the second year in a row, we are invited with ecumenical partners to Act, Learn, and Pray for Climate Justice.

The United Church of Canada is a founding member of [For the Love of Creation](#), a national faith-based coalition for climate justice. It enables us to work together under one banner to mobilize education, reflection, action, and advocacy for climate justice.

Climate change and global warming impacts us all and all of Creation but the greatest burden of climate change is falling on people in the Far North and global South—those who have contributed least to the problem.

Consequently, there has been a growing focus on climate justice, which looks at the climate crisis through a human rights lens and prioritizes a move towards equity, justice, and right relations with all people and the earth. Climate justice, racial justice, Indigenous justice, gender justice, and economic justice are all interconnected.

(Some examples of what climate justice can look like are listed as examples on the [Earth Week 2024 - Together for the Love of Creation webpage](#).)

With this in mind, let's think about the role of a Good Shepherd. How do we know who to follow? How are we being shepherded around creation care and climate justice? Which Shepherds are leading us in good ways, and which are leading us towards harmful and destructive ways?

The way of the Good Shepherd is always a way that leads towards abundant life for all people. How have paths that we have been on lead to destruction? How do we find our way back to the Good Shepherd and the pathway towards abundant, flourishing life for all?

*How will you **act** towards climate justice?

*What do you need to **learn** more about to be a better advocate for climate justice?

*What is your **prayer** for climate justice?

Hymn: Touch the Earth Lightly VU 307

- 1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
 nourish the life of the world in our care:
 gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
 trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

- 2 We who endanger, who create hunger,
 agents of death for all creatures that live,

we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

4 God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Joys and Concerns

Invitation to Offering

You are invited at this time to consider the multiple ways that you can give to the life, work, and ministry of this church and the wider church for the sake and love of creation. Our offerings will now be received.

Offertory

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU 541

Dedication Prayer:

God of Creation,
we are thankful for your awesome work in creation,
you have weaved all of life together,
and it is very good.

We are grateful for all that protects and cares for your good works:
the sunlight and water that sustains life,
the earth that grounds and nourishes life,
and the earth-beings that care for and protect life.

We ask your blessing on what we offer here and on the actions of those across the church and beyond during this Earth Week.

God of Creation,

All: **Together we are stronger**

—[Brenda Riley of Knox United Church's](#) adaptation from *For the Love of Creation*, "[Earth Sunday Service](#)," 2023. Free to use with attribution.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: We Have This Ministry VU 510

1 We have this ministry
and we are not discouraged;
it is by God's own power
that we may live and serve.

Openly we share God's word,
speaking truth as we believe,
praying that the shadowed world
may healing light receive.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.

2 O Christ, the tree of life,
our end and our beginning,
we grow to fullest flower
when rooted in your love.
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay,
called to service by your grace,
different cultures, different gifts,
the young and old a place.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.

3 The yoke of Christ is ours,
the whole world is our parish;
we daily take the cross,
the burden and the joy.
Bearing hurts of those we serve,
wounded, bruised and bowed with pain,
Holy Spirit, bread and wine,
we die and rise again.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our loving.

Commissioning and Benediction

As we experience each tree, each flower, each bird, each bee, and each human,
let us feel our God reflected in creation.

As we look upon God's world,
let us share the love of Christ.

As we love one another, may your Spirit give us the strength we need to care for each and
every part of creation.

Amen

—Adapted from the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, "[Be the Church: Protect the Environment](#)" worship
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Welcomers: Lorna Ziegler and Barb Gregory

Counters: Patty Foster and Kaillie Rawn

Worship Schedule

April 21	4 th Sunday of Easter	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
April 28	Camping Sunday	Rev. Ruth Brown