

Melville United Church
Sunday, April 7, 2024
2nd Sunday of Easter

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Prelude+

Welcome & Announcements

Celebrations & Concerns

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

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 118)

God is our strength and our might;

God is our salvation.

We shall not die, but we shall live

and recount the deeds of God.

You are our God and we will give thanks to you;

you are our God, we will extol you.

O give thanks for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Come, people of God, let us worship God together.

*Hymn: As Comes the Breath of Spring

VU 373 (vs 1,2,4)

1 As comes the breath of spring
with light and mirth and song,
so does your Spirit bring
new days brave, free, and strong.
You come with thrill of life
to chase hence winter's breath,
to hush to peace the strife
of sin that ends in death.

2 You come like dawning day
with flaming truth and love,
to chase all glooms away,
to brace our wills to prove
how wise, how good to choose
the truth and its brave fight,
to prize it, win or lose,
and live on your delight.

**4 You breathe and there is health;
you move and there is power;
you whisper, there is wealth
of love, your richest dower.
Your presence is to us
like summer in the soul;
your joy shines forth and then
life blossoms to its goal.**

Opening Prayer

God of resurrection, it can be too simple to leave Easter as one exciting, chocolate-filled day, and then to slip back into the ho-hum of everyday living. Draw us out of our everyday into the extraordinary of being Easter people, of hearing stories of resurrection, and so of experiencing each day a new awareness of the presence of the risen Christ in our lives. Amen.

Prayer for Healing:

We know our world can go silent, unwilling to hear what needs to be said,
we close our ears to what hurts too much, avoiding the truth of what is happening in our lives.

In our resurrection faith we believe all things can be made new.

Help us to name the things that destroy so they may be redeemed with life.

Hear us and hold us, O God, as, in a moment of silence, we name those things we are scared to name, knowing you hear them and will love us back to life.

May you listen in grace and heal us in love.... (silence)...

In our resurrection faith

we believe all things are made new.

Renew us. Reshape us. Rebirth us. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

As you have named what hurts, you have been named as loved. Be assured of God's love, be assured that the one who is resurrected is alive among us.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "The Parents Prayer" Sung by Cody and Rebecca Rawn

Words and music by Carole Sager and David Foster, arranged by Tom Fettke, adapted by Rebecca Rawn

Sacrament of Baptism

Being accepted into the Christian family of faith today is Rowan Elmer Lyle Rawn son of Cody and Rebecca Rawn.

Statement of Purpose:

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. By water and the Spirit, we are welcomed as children of God, we are claimed by Christ, we are united with the Christian community of every time and place and we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

Presentation of the One to be Baptized

On behalf of the congregation of Melville United Church I present Rowan Elmer Lyle Rawn for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

(family comes forward)

Scripture: Galatians 3:27-29 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, if you belong to Christ, you are the offspring of Abraham, which means you inherit all that was promised.

Profession of faith by the parents:

You have brought your child here for baptism. In baptism we are joined to the Christian family through the sign and seal of God's eternal love.

Do you believe in God and God's love?

Yes, I do so believe.

Do you believe that God is revealed to us in Jesus the Christ who lived and died, and who lives on in the Christian church?

Yes, I do so believe.

Do you believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, is active in the world to direct and to strengthen you?

Yes, I do so believe.

Will you do your best to provide a Christian home for your child, encouraging him to grow in his own faith and to seek confirmation?

Yes I will, God being my helper.

Commitment by Congregation *(congregation stands)*

We are to receive this child as part of our faith community. In so doing, we remember our calling to share life together, and to be open to the future that he contains. We are also called to support this family and this child with love and with Christian teaching. Are you willing, as you are able to share in this responsibility?

We are willing, God being our helper.

Let us remain standing as we repeat together our statement of faith "A New Creed".

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed

VU 918

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

**We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen**

**our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Blessing of the Water (*children bring water and congregation call out blessings*)

Prayer

The Baptism

Sign of the Cross and Blessing

Laying on of Hands/Blessing

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle

Child is introduced to the congregation as the following blessing is sung.

Sung Blessing: I Have Called You by Your Name MV 161

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

**I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word you soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.**

**I know you will need my touch as you go
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**

**I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in our soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

Prayer

Presentation of Baptismal Certificate and Gifts

Music: "Baptism" by Mabel Jones Gabbot and Crawford Gates,
arranged by Jan Welch

Scripture: Psalm 133 *(The Inclusive Bible; The First Egalitarian Edition)*

See how good, how pleasant it is
for God's people to live together as one!
It is like precious oil on Aaron's head
running down on his beard,
running down to the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Mount Hermon,
falling on the hills of Zion.
For that is where YHWH bestows the blessing - life that never ends.

Scripture: John 20:19-29 *(The Inclusive Bible; The First Egalitarian Edition)*

(Thomas doubts until he sees Jesus for himself)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, Jesus showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you."

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas - nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin" - was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!" Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

On the eighth day the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Then to Thomas, Jesus said "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!:

Thomas said in response, "My saviour and my God!:

Jesus then said, "You've become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Message: Meeting Thomas

***Hymn: You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen VU 185 (tune #625)(vs 1-3)**

- 1** You tell me that the Lord is risen,
that you have seen his face.
Then tell me why you crouch in fear
and hide within this place.
You say that he spoke words of peace
and stood just as before.
But 'til I touch his very flesh
I will not trust your joy.
- 2** You claim a resurrection here,
that God has broken death.
No easy words like these will soothe
the pain that tears my breath.
How well do I recall his face,
compassion, strength in fear.
How deep my grief that he should die.
Spare me your words of cheer!
- 3** 'Now peace be with you. Come, my friend,
my wounded body see.
Let the rich courage of your doubt
bring you to fresh belief.
Fear not to wonder at the Word,
to search the depths of grace.
Reach out and touch, here is my hand.
Receive the gift of faith.'

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 s

hare. (Repeat)

***Offertory Prayer:**

We give a portion of all we have received, O God. Even as we give, our hearts seek you and your blessing. Take us and take these gifts, and cause us and them to become blessings for many others. Amen.

Prayer Prelude: And When You Call for Me MV 96

**And when you call for me,
I have already answered.**

**And when you call for me,
I am already there. (Repeat)**

Prayers of the People:

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name, Thy kindom 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 kindom,
the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

***Hymn:** We Meet You O Christ **VU 183** (tune 342)

- 1 We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;
your image we see in simple and wise.
You live in a palace, exist in a shack.
We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.**
- 2 In millions alive, away and abroad;
involved in our life you live down the road.
Imprisoned in systems you long to be free.
We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.**
- 3 We hear you, O Christ, in agony cry.
For freedom you march, in riots you die.
Your face in the papers we read and we see.
The tree must be planted by human decree.**
- 4 You choose to be made at one with the earth;
the dark of the grave prepares for your birth.
Your death is your rising, creative your word:
the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.**

***Sending Forth:**

Let us go from this place trusting that the power of God;

can make friends of strangers;

can turn mourning to dancing;

and can bring life from death.

Praise be to God!

Amen and Hallelujah!

***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:

Grant us a voice, O God, that breaks into all silence and speaks out in your name. May we clear our throats and find the gospel words that speak into poverty and for justice, that proclaim heaven's authority and love's agenda. And when others wish to silence the good news, may we shout it even louder. Amen.