



# Celebrating 178 Years



**May 12, 2024**

Melville United Church

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Office Administrator

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Melville United Church  
May 12, 2024  
Christian Family/Mother's Day Sunday

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*Presiding: Rev. Felicia Urbanski*  
*Musicians: Colleen Weber – piano and organ*  
*“The Autumn Tones” & “The Red Suspenders” – special guests*

**Prelude: Old Time Religion** (Traditional) Variations on **Duke Street** (with words by Heidi Ibs)

**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.

- Fun, Funds and Fellowship’s message to all: Our Committee is having **on-going Garage Sales**, which started **Friday and Sat**, May 3rd and 4th, **8-4pm**. We will include Plants and Baking, so we ask that you bake ahead and freeze it. If you could package your items in 2’s, 4’s, or 6’s, that would be a huge help. Please put your Baking in the upstairs kitchen by Thursday evening with your name on it. Please donate any items that you don’t need, to our efforts. We are using the Chapel and the Heritage Hall on the main floor, so you may leave your items inside the Chapel. Our first weekend was very successful, where we saw \$2300 go into Melville’s coffers. We will also be selling Melville’s frozen Meat Pies at the sales, when available. For info: call Lorna Bevcar 519-787-0570. We will be out the **front of the Church on Sat May 25th 9-2 with a Bake Sale, Meat Pies, Jewellery and Plants**. That is the day of the Fibre Festival in the downtown core.
- **Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost Sunday – Leading Worship Rev. Tom Watson** Pentecost is celebrated on a Sunday 50 days after Easter, and everyone is encouraged to wear **Red**. Red is the primary colour and a warm colour. It symbolizes fire, spirit, energy, passion, strength power, intensity, courage and determination. It draws to mind the flames dancing over the disciples and friends of Jesus gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. See you on the 19<sup>th</sup> wearing **Red**
- **Thyme with God Garden**. Welcome to the 2024 season... it feels good to be back in the garden! We have planted potatoes, spring greens and snap peas so far and the fun is just beginning. :) Feel free to join us on Mondays at 6pm for conversation, watering, planting, harvesting and a little bit of weeding during the growing season. See you in the garden!
- **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 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.

- Rev. Felicia Urbanski encourages anyone to attend an **annual interfaith breakfast** event, this year on the topic of Belonging, on **Wednesday, May 15**, from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Bingeman Centre, 25 Bingeman Centre Drive, Kitchener. The cost of individual tickets is \$50. If you wish to put together a table of six, the cost is \$275.00. Registration is open until May 9, 2024. For details and to purchase your tickets, click on this link.  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/interfaith-community-breakfast-2024-belonging-tickets-861577600797?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>
- **The One Stop Pork Chop Shop.** A drive through, take out, dining experience. Jesse's at the Guelph Country Club, 133 Woodlawn Rd. E., **Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 4:15-6:00 pm. \$28 per dinner**, donations welcome. To order contact Kathy for a pick-up time [kathyrobertstephens@gmail.com](mailto:kathyrobertstephens@gmail.com) or call 519-829-9622. **Please place your order by May 20<sup>th</sup>.** Proceeds and donations support the work of Trinity United Church in the Community.
- **Falls Prevention Workshop** Learn how to prevent falls and stay safe. **Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm** at Melville United Church in the Fellowship Hall. This is a free workshop to get tips and strategies to reduce your risk of falling so you can stay independent. **Preregistration is required:** Please call 519-638-1000 or email [hedwards@mapleton.ca](mailto:hedwards@mapleton.ca) to assure a seat. Provided by Seniors' Centre for Excellence, VON, and Upper Grand FHT.
- **The Bells Are Back in Town.** The Bells of Westminster **Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm.** Westminster United Church 247 Broadway, Orangeville. Free will offering.
- 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

On this Mother's Day and Christian Family Sunday, we light the Christ candle to remind us that, in the words of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "The love of a mother is the veil of a softer light between the heart and God."

### Call to Worship (responsive)

Source of breath, blowing into us your likeness, enfolding us on all sides like a womb, and imprinting us with a lovely silence:

**Move every fibre in our being to resonate with your Spirit here.**

We look upon ourselves, and, in your gaze,

**We recognize dignity in ourselves.**

With you, we look upon the broken world

**and your expression impresses upon us compassion, love, and joy.**

You are like a wise Mother to us, O God, who unafraid, has learned trust in life, in death, and in life beyond death.

**You, who are mother to us,**

**lead us to such a pervasive love as yours,**

as we join in worship this day.

**Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness VU 375**

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law  
and a land; and when they were blinded with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the  
captives dream dreams;  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

**Children’s Time**

**Gift of Music: Come, Holy Spirit** *words are by Patrick M. Liebergen and the tune is the Old Hundredth*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison) VU 557 *A Prayer for Homes and Families*

**In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name. Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love, granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely, endurance to those who care for sick family members, and wisdom to those in fearful times of change. We thank you for gifts of love we have received from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion. As we have been loved by you and by others, so may we love. Grant us your peace, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**Music Ministry: Like A River** words by Marti Lunn Lantz; music by David Lantz III

**Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 2:1-10 (NRSV)**

4 On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; 5 but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. 6 Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. 7 So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. 8 Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

9 After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. 11 She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

12 As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." 15 But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. 16 Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." 17 Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." 18 And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

19 They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. 20 In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

2 Hannah prayed and said,

"My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God.

My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.

2 "There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

3 Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth;

for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

4 The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength.

5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,

but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.

6 The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts.

8 He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world.

9 "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail.

10 The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven.

The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed."

### **Sermon: God's Divine Embrace**

**Music Ministry: The Prayer, with Lead Us Lord** *words & music by Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster*

### **Prayers of the People**

This day we gather with eager hearts, O God, yearning for the joy you promise in love. Together we hold a vision of your kingdom, a people of prayer and open hearts, a loving Body of Christ eager to learn and eager to share. You bless us, O God, and shine upon us with the blessing of your salvation. And your Good Earth has yielded its increase through those who have brought us knowledge on how to care for its great resources.

On this day of celebrating your love, we lift to you those who have given us life, those who have loved us, those who have blessed us, and those who have taught us, our mothers. May your blessing pour out upon the woman who gave us birth, and those beautiful, strong women of faith who have been mothers to us along our journey.

We praise you, O God, for your gift of motherly love, both gentle and fierce, both strong and humble, both kind and true. Where we have been so blessed, we give our grateful praise, for you have provided loving hands that have worked so hard in raising us, cared enough to correct us, blessed us in ways we cannot have fully known as children.

We call forth your compassion upon every mother who has unknowingly caused pain and suffering. And, so we lift to you our mothers, so imperfect, also so wounded by this world.

We bless our mothers this day, no matter what they have done or left undone. We do this because we believe in your healing, and we believe in your love and we believe that you love every mother, good or not-so-good; and we stand together with all mothers in solidarity, for we all are in need of your grace. Where we have failed because we did not know better, help us to forgive ourselves. Where we have seen your face in any woman who has been to us a mother, in her face we have seen your light and your love and we give thanks -- for where they have loved, they have kept your word and blessed us.

We lift to you the heart of every mother who has watched her child die of hunger, every mother who had been a victim of abuse, every woman who stands in protest against a world that massacres her children and renames them "collateral damage." We lift to you the prayer of every mother who has ever loved and lost.

We lift to you our Mother Earth. We lift to you our Mother Church. We lift to you, O God, your mother's heart; and although we cannot fully express our gratitude, help each one of us to be your blessing of love, a blessing straight from your heart.

Hear our prayers this day, as we offer them to you in this sacred silence....

We pray now in the words that Jesus taught us....

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Hymn: Would You Bless Our Homes and Families VU 556**

- 1     Would you bless our homes and families,  
          Source of life who calls us here;  
in our world of stress and tension  
          teach us love that conquers fear.  
Help us learn to love each other  
          with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles,  
          love's expressed in many ways.
  
- 2     When our way is undemanding,  
          let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures,  
          sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking  
          and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another  
          and in you, our gracious God.
  
- 3     From the homes in which we're nurtured,  
          with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family  
          every one whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer,  
          may we in your love remain;  
may the love we share in families  
          be alive to praise your name.
  
- 4     Let us reach beyond the boundaries  
          of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen  
          spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other  
          with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles  
          love's expressed in many ways.

## **Joys and Concerns**

- **Birthdays**
  - Richard and Peter Wright celebrate on Fri May 17<sup>th</sup>
- **Condolences**
  - We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Helen Thompson who passed away on Friday, May 3, 2024. Please keep the family in your prayers.

### **Offertory Invitation**

A teacher was once explaining magnets to her Grade 3 class. She wanted them to remember the word “magnet”, so she asked her class, “Can you give me a word for something that picks things up, something that starts with the letter M?” Half of the children responded, “Mom”. So now we give of ourselves with another M word – money, in the name of God’s dream for the world. Our offerings will now be given and gratefully received.

### **Offertory Song: One More Step VU 639 (verse 1)**

One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go.  
From the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you.  
And it’s from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you.

### **Offertory Prayer**

#### **Benediction and Commissioning**

May God who brought us to birth by the Holy Spirit,  
strengthen us for the Christian life.  
May God who provides for all our needs  
sustain us day by day.  
May God whose steadfast love is constant as a mother’s care,  
send us out to live and work for others.  
And the blessing of God: Creator, Christ and Comforter  
be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

### **Postlude: Siyahamba (We Are Marching) VU 646-with added verses**

#### **Household Prayer: A Litany for Mother’s Day**

Mothers come in many different forms,  
and today we celebrate them all!  
Thank God for mothers!  
Everyone here is either a son or a daughter.  
Thank God for my mother!

For those women who have passed and  
whom we miss dearly here on earth.  
Thank God for the mothers of the past.

For every woman who is working day and  
night to raise her children right now.  
Thank God for the mothers of today.

For all the women who are expecting,  
but aren't quite mothers yet!  
Thank God for the soon-to-be-mothers.

For the women who took in others' children  
through adoption and foster care.  
Thank God for the mothers with hearts so big.



For those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on.  
Thank God for the mothers who are so strong.

For all the women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own,  
but chose instead to mother everyone else.  
Thank God for the mothers in spirit.

We also pray for those who lost their mothers in the time of pandemic.  
And those who are in the wilderness of illness, loneliness and grief.  
We thank you, God, for the women and life-givers who have helped us, loved us, supported us  
and influenced our lives in so many ways.  
We pray that we will honour them in everything we do.

**Welcomers:** Doreen and Larry Broome

**Counters:** Mary Lloyd, Ruth Sproule

#### **Worship Schedule**

May 19	Day of Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson
May 26	Trinity Sunday	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
June 2	Pride Sunday	Social Justice & Outreach
June 9	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Jeff Hawkins