



May 19, 2024

Melville United Church
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Melville United Church
Sunday May 19, 2024

Presiding: Rev. Tom Watson

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.

- 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, in the aisles, or in the Heritage Hall (leaving the left side vacant for the Quilters on Thursdays). 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.
- **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.
- **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 23rd 4:15-6:00 pm. \$28 per dinner**, donations welcome. To order contact Kathy for a pick-up time kathyrobertstephens@gmail.com or call 519-829-9622. **Please place your order by May 20th**. 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 24th 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 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 4th 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

Call to Worship *(based on the words of an unknown author)*

These things make life worthwhile to me:

a sunset sky, a maple tree.

**A mountain standing grim and gray
against the skyline far away.**

A baby's laugh, a summer breeze,
a roadway winding 'neath the trees.

**A friend to trust, a book to read,
and work which meets some human need.**

And through it all a sense of God,
lifting my soul above the sod.

**The hope and peace which God can give—
these make it worth my life to live.**

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!

Gathering Prayer (in unison):

Creator God, as we gather this morning we give thanks for this, our wondrous world. We thank you for the daily miracles of growth in the season of spring. Nature's chorus is sung in so many ways, and our senses are awakened to all the beauty and grace that surrounds us. Be with us our worship, as we acknowledge the privilege it is to be the church in this little corner of our majestic blue planet. Amen.

Hymn —Each Blade of Grass MV 37

1. Each blade of grass, every wing that soars,
The waves that sweep across a distant shore,
Make full the circle of God.
Each laughing child, every gentle eye,
A forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
Make full the circle of God.

2. Each silent paw, every rounded stone,
The buzz that echoes from a honey comb,
Make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, every outstretched hand,
The wind that leaps and sails across the land,
Make full the circle of God.

3. Each icy peak, every patterned shell,
The joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
Make full the circle of God.
Each cosmic hue, every creature's way,
All form the beauty of this vast array,
Making full the circle of God.

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: Spirit Of The Living God *by Audrey Assad arranged by Joseph M. Martin
sung by Jo-Anne Hall*

Reading — Psalm 8

O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Hymn —We Praise You, Creator VU 293

1. We praise you, Creator, in earth, sea, and sky;
Our Ruler, our Maker, our Sovereign most high.
Each new generation lifts voices in praise;
How good your creation, how gracious your ways!
2. Each springtime the blossoms bloom fragrant once more;
Each summer and autumn brings forth its rich store.
With witness compelling our praise and our prayer,
Creation is telling of your faithful care.
3. Your wondrous works teach us, Creator, to trace
The limitless reaches of your love and grace.
Your grace dwells among us, your love goes before:
From eldest to youngest we praise and adore.

Questions Job is Asked

From Job 38-39 (selected verses)

The LORD spoke to Job out of the whirlwind:

Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone...when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?

Who was it that said: Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?

Have you, Job, commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place? Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Tell me, if you know all this.

Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? Surely you know, for the number of your days is great!

Do you know the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?

Do you know who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain, and a way for the thunderbolt, so

that rain might fall on a land where no one lives, on the desert, which is empty of human life, satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground put forth grass?

From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the hoarfrost of heaven? The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth—the Hebrew word for the twelve signs of the zodiac, the name given to the pattern of stars found in the ecliptic, the path which the sun follows during the year—in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children?

Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth? Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'?

Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together?

Who provides prey for the raven, when its young ones cry to God and wander about for lack of food? Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Do you give the horse its might? Do you clothe its neck with mane?

Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings toward the south? Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes its nest on high?

Tell me, Job, if you know all these things!

Reflection—"Behold the Wonders"

The 38th and 39th chapters of Job are part of a much longer passage that is one of the most beautifully poetic sections in all of scripture.

In this passage, the writer imagines God inviting Job to look around at all the wonders of the universe, and consider who ordered and designed all that exists.

Then God...and not so gently either...chides Job with some pretty significant questions:

Where did all of this come from, Job?

Were you its author?

And how much of it do you really understand?

Centuries later, as we continue to marvel at the wonders of our universe, we might still ask ourselves the same questions:

Where did all of this come from?

And when you come right down to it, how much do we really understand?

Oh sure, we have a lot more scientific knowledge than Job had. But we also know that knowledge and understanding are not the same thing.

I have some knowledge about electricity. But I don't really understand it. It's still somewhat of a wonder...indeed a mystery...to me.

I know that I can click the remote control and turn on the television set, and, somehow get a

signal through a bunch of wires that are miraculously connected to a satellite circling some 25,000 miles above the earth. But I surely don't understand how the satellite got there, how it stays where it is, and how the signal gets to exactly where I want it, from 25,000 miles away. And the planets, and galaxies, and what lies beyond our universe—that stuff is a huge mystery to me.

But no more a mystery and wonder than the intricacy of a flower. And how artificial flavours and scents are made. Or how it is that my children inherited so many delightful human characteristics from me, so that they are as close as there is to perfect—as long as you overlook big noses and ears, flat feet and ingrown toenails.

By the way, I am absolutely fascinated by genetics. The other day, I was listening to a discussion concerning the research being done on the human genome. Did you know that they have now determined there is a total of 30,000 human genes? Sounds like a lot—30,000—but not really, when you consider that the entire structure of humanity is founded upon these 30,000 genes.

Well, these are just a few things. But they are an indication of what wonders abound in this world of God's. So many things for us to marvel at, appreciate, enjoy.

And while we're at it, we might marvel at the wonder that is the church. Were it not for a bunch of ragtag followers of Jesus who decided that the way of Jesus wouldn't die out, you and I wouldn't be here today.

Had they not sensed, on that Day of Pentecost, when everybody, regardless of their language, heard the same message, to go to the ends of the earth and make disciples...you and I wouldn't be here...you and I wouldn't be the church.

Behold the wonders. Of this world of God that surrounds us. And of the wonders of faith, and hope, and love—the central message that Jesus came to proclaim.

Behold the wonders...and give thanks!

Hymn - God of the Sparrow VU 229

1. God of the sparrow, God of the whale,
God of the swirling stars,
How does the creature say Awe,
How does the creature say Praise.

2. God of the earthquake, God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast.
How does the creature cry Woe.
How does the creature cry Save,

3. God of the rainbow, God of the cross
God of the empty grave.
How does the creature say Grace,
How does the creature say Thanks.

4. God of the hungry, God of the sick,
God of the prodigal,

How does the creature say Care,
How does the creature say Life.

5. God of the neighbour, God of the foe,
God of the pruning hook,
How does the creature say Love,
How does the creature say Peace.

6. God of the ages, God near at hand,
God of the loving heart,
How do your children say Joy,
How do your children say Home.

POEM — Daybreak Ritual *by Rev. Tom Watson*

When the sun peeks over
 the horizon, night creatures
begin scurrying toward
 their secret hiding places,
a few crows petulantly
 caw their annoyance at
being wakened, and a
 solitary buzzard plies its way
through the purpling sky.

A leaf, wrenched from its
 mooring and, stroked by the
wind, flickers from silver
 to green as it spirals toward
the woodland floor. An owl—
 the forest's vigilant night
sentry—its nocturnal mission
 accomplished, sweeps silently
to a lofty branch to rest.

Now that dawn's first light
 has pressed the day to begin,
a robin sends its shrill song
 bursting through the trees
while, far below, insects,
 adorned with a wash of iridescent
colours, begin to swagger and
 strut in flashy formations.

The daybreak ritual—nature
 presenting its dynamic tapestry
and proclaiming that all is still
 right with the world.

Prayers of the people and the Prayer of Jesus

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays
 - Gary Sproule celebrates on Wed May 22nd

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn: Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow VU 541

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Give thanks to God in love made known,
Creator, Word and Spirit One.

Offering Prayer

Minute for Mission

Hymn — VU 238 How Great Thou Art

1. Oh Lord, my God, when I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

(refrain): Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
How great thou art! how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
How great thou art! how great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. *(refrain)*

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin. *(refrain)*

4. When Christ shall come, with shouts of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *(refrain)*

Benediction

As we go about our daily living, may we always be open to all the beauty that surrounds us in God's world!

May we encounter all that surrounds us with wonder and joy!

May we find excitement with each new possibility!

May we discover the grace of God in every experience!

And, until we meet again, go in peace.

Amen.

Postlude — MV 106 I Am the Dream *sung by Rev. Tom Watson*

Welcomers: Vivian and Havey Andrews

Counters: Karen Smillie, David Gohn

Worship Schedule

| | | |
|---------|--|---------------------------|
| May 26 | Trinity Sunday | Rev. Jeff Hawkins |
| June 2 | Pride Sunday | Social Justice & Outreach |
| June 9 | 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost | Rev. Jeff Hawkins |
| June 16 | Indigenous Day of Prayer/Communion | Rev. Tom Watson |