



September 22, 2024

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church

September 22, 2024

Truth and Reconciliation

Presiding: Melville Social Justice and Outreach Team

Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber

Prelude

Welcome

We greet you in the name of the one who calls us to welcome, love and seek dignity for all, Jesus the Christ. We gather to learn and listen, to understand how God is calling us to support and respond to those facing the effects of generations of abuse, mistrust, identity theft and misunderstanding.

Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

This morning we acknowledge that we are gathering on the land of the people of the Petun, Haudenosaunee (Hoe-day-no-show-nee), Anishinabe Waki, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Odawa and Mississauga Nations people. We are mindful of the rich culture, history, and spirituality of the Indigenous Peoples who inhabited and cared for this land for generations—long before the first settlers arrived here. We gather in deep gratitude for their past and ongoing hospitality as we continue to live together on their land. We also recognize the contributions Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous Peoples have made in shaping and strengthening this region, the provinces, and Canada as a whole. We commit as a community of faith to continue to work to build relationships that are just and equitable for us all.

Lighting of the Christ Candle We light this candle. May its light guide us to truth talking and to travelling good paths. May we in turn share the light with those we meet until it spreads to all peoples worldwide.

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, our country has journeyed for many years in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process, seeking understanding, healing, and reconciliation. It has not always been an easy path, but we have sought to walk it together. We have tried to listen to each other's stories. We have sought to understand without judgement. We have noted the differences in values and traditions, but also the places where we share values and traditions. We are all your children. You embrace all in your love. You call us now to reflect that love to each other. You call us to be brothers and sisters on the path to reconciliation. Amen.

Opening Hymn: My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV 138

1. My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

2. My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

3, 4 We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking
from time to time.
And we'll never move the grave-stones
if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

Prayer of Confession:

Great Comforter, we know that we are surrounded by a legacy of pain. We acknowledge the pain, grief, and sorrow caused by not living respectfully with all people, and we are sorry for the ways that we have dishonoured the depths of this pain. Open us, Creator, to the power of interconnectedness: Help us to receive the painful stories and the inspiring dreams of our siblings; Grant us the courage to own any feelings of vulnerability, shame, fear, and guilt that may come from our interactions with each other; And with your healing grace, lead us through our aching toward your dream of wholeness. Transform us and our community so that we may continually work toward reconciliation and new life. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Creator has sent us Jesus to teach us how to walk the good road. His life and death showed us that we must always work toward justice, peace and love for all of creation no matter the cost. Ultimately, in God, we have been forgiven. There is nothing we can do to separate us from the absolute love of God that embraces us all. Let God's peace fill your hearts, because when we follow Jesus, every day is a chance to start over again. God's mercies are new every morning. Be at peace. Amen.

Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness VU 375

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

1 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:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. R

2 You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,

then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes. R

3 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. R

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

Time with children

Scripture Psalm 106:1–5

Paraphrase: Praise our Creator! O Meegwetch give thanks to the Maker, for Turtle Island nurtures us; love lives forever in ancestors dancing in the aurora borealis. Who can truth talk the mighty doings of the Creator or drum all their praises? Joyful are those who observe justice, who work for right relations at all times. Remember me, O Great Spirit, when you show honour to your people. Help us when you lead us into places of protection. We see the grateful hunting of creatures, generous gathering, and abundant harvest and prosperity of our kin, that we may dance in the ceremonies of our nation's people, that we may glory in your ancestry. All my relations.

© Lisa Waites, 2016. All Rights Reserved. Permission is granted by the composer for United Church of Canada communities of faith to use this music during their Indigenous Day of Prayer 2022 worship services, including the duplication and use of the musical score, the related video, and digital streaming/downloading. After June 2022, please e-mail lisa.waites1@gmail.com to discuss permissions for ongoing use. Sermon Paul, in his letter to church

Message

[Moderator Carmen's 2024 Orange Shirt Day \(National TRC Day\) Message \(English\)](#)

So, what can we do?

[Residential school survivor Dennis Saddleman shares poem about his experience](#)

Hymn: Deep in Our Hearts MV 154

1. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;

deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

2. Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.
3. Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.
4. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Rachel McIntosh celebrates on Sept. 28th
- **Anniversaries**
 - Evelyn & Phil Brown celebrates 35 years Sept. 23rd
 - Cathy & Robert Foster celebrates 32 years Sept. 28th

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Powerful Christ,

we are grateful that you came to us as a child,
who grew out of a community that nurtured, supported, and taught you the way of your
ancestors.

You have asked us to do the same:

to treat every child as we would treat you,
to love every person as you have loved us.

We are grateful that

your power is rooted in love, not force;
your strength is displayed through community, not might.

You have taught us to work toward a better world where all of creation thrives,
and where every child matters.

On this Orange Shirt Day,

we remember Phyllis Webstad as a child,
and the stolen childhood of all the children forcibly raised by church-run institutions, known as
residential schools.

We lament how these institutions

stole from children the opportunity to grow in a safe and loving environment,
stole from Elders the opportunity to share their teachings and wisdom with younger

generations; and
stole from communities the opportunity to live intergenerationally.

We mourn the children who never made it home,
the communities that were destroyed,
the broken hearts,
the stories never shared, and
the shattered relationships.

We ask that you provide
comfort to all who are seeking healing and who daily wrestle with the ongoing harmful
legacy of
these colonial institutions,
strength to all who name how colonial powers have harmed us as peoples and as a
nation;
often at great personal cost, and
courage to all who are working toward reconciliation.

Christ Child,
As you grew, you reminded us to always welcome and care for children.
We remember your children today.
We lament and acknowledge the sinful ways that colonial powers tried to eradicate Indigenous
cultures within Canada,
breaking Indigenous families,
removing children from their homes while destroying communities.
And we pray for healing,
so that we who live together in this country
can also work together to build a better future
where all children are cherished, beloved, and given what they need to thrive.
So that we may treat all children as we would treat you, our Beloved.
May it be so.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

The scriptures ask us, "What does the Lord require of you?" (Micah 6:8) There are many ways
that we can live in right relations with Indigenous communities and organizations. Let us offer
these gifts as a sign of our commitment to share the world's resources so that all will live in
God's abundance. Grateful for all that God our Creator has given us, and mindful of how we
might share our abundance, let us offer our thanks. Our offering will now be received.

Offering Hymn: What Does the Lord Require of You **VU 701**

- 1 What does the Lord require of you?
 What does the Lord require of you?

- 2 Justice, kindness,
 walk humbly with your God.

- 3 To seek justice, and love kindness,
 and walk humbly with your God.

Offering Prayer:

Creator God, we ask you to bless these gifts, which have been given in love. May our gifts be used in many ways to build good relations. May your will be done through these gifts and through us and in spite of ourselves. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mission Story:



Credit: Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq/Kitikmeot Heritage Society

Hymn: Hey Ney Yana **MV 217**

Refrain:

Hey ney yana,
hey ney yana,
hey ney yana,

hey ya hey yo,
hey ya hey yo.

I walk in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,
I talk in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,
I sing of beauty, hey ya hey yo,
hey ya hey yo. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Hey ney yana,
hey ney yana,
hey ney yana,
hey ya hey yo,
hey ya hey yo.

I leave in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,
I sleep in beauty, yes I do, yes I do,
I dream of beauty, hey ya hey yo,
hey ya hey yo. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Hey ney yana,
hey ney yana,
hey ney yana,
hey ya hey yo,
hey ya hey yo.

Commissioning and Benediction

One: As God's united yet diverse peoples, we go to become neighbours to each other and to the earth.

All: For in Christ we are all kin. We are called to be neighbours, to share generously with each other.

One: As we learn more, respect more, love more, we all can gain, not lose!

All: God as Creator will be our rock. Christ and Spirit be our guides.

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Sermon Paul, in his letter to churches in southern Galatia, states in Galatians 3:28: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." This wonderful proclamation of inclusivity needs to be heard. This statement rings true for us here, today. In these times of racial awareness and acknowledgement of discrimination, it is time for us to focus on our common humanity and look for ways we can love our neighbours instead of fearing them, or talking about us and them. We need to honour the deaths of children in residential schools. As someone who has handled

racism—yes, even from church people—it is our responsibility to teach our children and grandchildren and our Sunday school children that we are all one, united in our love and faithfulness as followers of the teachings of Christ. Very likely one of the phrases I use most often is that we are all our Creator’s beloved children. Indigenous peoples have a saying, All My Relations. The Indigenous contribution to the church is honoured by the Mohawk phrase “Akwe Nia’Tetewá:neren” (aw gway-- nyah day day waw-- nay renh) —all my relations—on the crest. The four colours of the Medicine Wheel, yellow, red, black, and white, and the Mohawk words have been incorporated in the United Church crest since 2012. Indigenous spirituality, leadership, and participation are vital to the church’s life. What this says to me is that we are all united. It goes further than Paul’s teaching and evangelism. Paul was speaking about people. All my relations include all living things: people, creatures in the water, those that fly in the air, everything that creeps and crawls and slithers on the ground. We all have a place in God’s great creation. I was taught it is like creation is a giant spider’s web. If you pluck at one thread, the vibrations are felt throughout the whole web. It’s like the ripples that spread out when a pebble is thrown into or skipped in water. So how we work toward justice and reconciliation? Like the paraphrase of Psalm 106 says, “Joyful are those who observe justice, who work for right relations at all times.” Acknowledge the land you are meeting on. Recognize the Treaty if you are in Treaty territory. Recognize not all lands are Treaty land but are unceded Indigenous land. And let us educate ourselves about culture, racism, and reconciliation. We can read Indigenous authors, including books for our children and grandchildren. Or a book such as *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad, and invite Indigenous people to be part of the group. Support local Indigenous communities by attending a powwow to embrace the power of our cultural dances and the splendour of our regalia. Celebrate Indigenous artists: their writing, music, and artwork. Donate to local Indigenous organizations such as healing and friendship centres. We can also support urban Indigenous people through Indigenous community centres and programs. Did you know, for example, that Ottawa is home to the largest population of Inuit people outside of the Arctic? Consider donating to our United Church of Canada’s Healing Fund, which directly supports projects led by Indigenous church members and others in their communities. The Healing Fund promotes healing initiatives for survivors of the residential school system and initiatives that address ongoing intergenerational impacts. Indigenous communities can apply for a grant of up to \$15,000 toward programs centred on cultural, healing, and language projects. The Healing Programs Working Group, made up of representatives from diverse Indigenous communities across the country, determines the fund's criteria and evaluates applications.

The Rev. Nancy Best writes from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and has Mohawk heritage. Nancy is ordained clergy in The United Church of Canada and is a member of the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering Planning Team. She is interested in the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and social justice issues. Nancy has travelled to Palestine and Israel with The United Church of Canada to observe conditions firsthand. Nancy’s writings have been published in several places. The Rev. Dr. Lisa Waites is a singer-songwriter, liturgist, and worship leader in The United Church of Canada. Lisa discovered her Métis ancestry as an adult and has been on a journey of discovering her heritage and culture for the past decade. Elders from the

Miywasin Centre invited Lisa to write and share this hymn during their public Truth and Reconciliation conference in Medicine Hat, AB.

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Welcomers: Vivian and Havey Andrews

Counters: Phil Brown, David Gohn

Worship Schedule

September 29	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
October 6	World Communion	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
October 13	Thanksgiving Sunday	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
October 20	World Food Sunday	Rev. Tom Watson