



September 8, 2024

Melville United Church

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Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

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Melville United Church
September 8, 2024 – 1st Sunday in Creation Time

Presiding: Rev. Felicia Urbanski
Musicians: Susan Flewelling, piano; Rene Crespo, classical guitar

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

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 (responsive)

All creation is made of star-stuff.

From the basic building blocks of the universe, come fire, air, earth, and water.

And all creation sings praise to the Creator of all.

Baptized by the waters of the sky, standing firm on the earth, breathing deep the breath of life, warmed by this flame...

we go where Christ's light shines!

Alleluia!

Alleluia, amen!

Call to Worship (responsive)

In the beginning, when it was very dark, God said,

"Let there be light!"

And the light was! God said,

"This is great!"

In the burning bush, in the column of fire, in the bright of the day, in the sparkle of night—

the fires of creation

have pointed us in the direction of God.

With the light in our eyes, with the warmth on our faces, with the love in our hearts—

let us worship God!

Hymn: Sing to the Lord of Harvest VU 519

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise,

with joyful hearts and voices your hallelujahs raise;

by whom the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;

sing to the Lord of harvest a joyful song of love.

God makes the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.

God fills them with fullness, all things with large increase,
and crowns the year with goodness, with plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar all things God's goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save:
your hearts lay down before him when at his feet you fall,

and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.

Opening Prayer

You are the flame that warms us strangely, Creator of All.
You are the voice that calls us to love, O Christ.
You are the tug and dance that moves us anew, Holy Spirit.
Open us to your warmth, your call, and your dance, God.
Because we are ready.
Ready to go. Amen.

Children's Time

Music Ministry: Waltz of the Autumn Leaves, by James Michael Stevens,
*played by Felicia Urbanski, violin; Suzanne Flewelling, piano;
Rene Crespo, classical guitar*

Scripture Readings:

John 1:1-5 (New International Reader's Version)

In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him. Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not overcome the light.

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Job 12:7-12 (New International Reader's Version)

“But ask the animals what God does.
They will teach you.
Or ask the birds in the sky.
They will tell you.
Or speak to the earth. It will teach you.
Or let the fish in the ocean educate you.
Are there any of these creatures that don't know
what the powerful hand of the Lord has done?
He holds the life of every creature in his hand.
He controls the breath of every human being.
Our tongues tell us what tastes good and what doesn't.
And our ears tell us what's true and what isn't.
Old people are wise.
Those who live a long time have understanding.

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Psalms 104:24-34 (New International Reader's Version)

Lord, you have made so many things!
How wise you were when you made all of them!
The earth is full of your creatures.

Look at the ocean, so big and wide!
It is filled with more creatures than people can count.
It is filled with living things, from the largest to the smallest.
Ships sail back and forth on it.
Leviathan, the sea monster you made, plays in it.

All creatures depend on you
to give them their food when they need it.
When you give it to them,
they eat it.
When you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.
When you turn your face away from them,
they are terrified.
When you take away their breath,
they die and turn back into dust.
When you send your Spirit,
you create them.
You give new life to the ground.

May the glory of the Lord continue forever.
May the Lord be happy with what he has made.
When he looks at the earth, it trembles.
When he touches the mountains, they pour out smoke.

I will sing to the Lord all my life.
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
May these thoughts of mine please him.
I find my joy in the Lord.

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth VU 226 (sung to the tune of #81)

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.

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.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift sublime to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Sermon: "We Can't Give Up on Creation"

Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays
 - Margurite Ancliffe celebrates on Sept. 13th

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory Invitation

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

Closing Hymn: In the Garden

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses

And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing

And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

I stayed in the garden with Him
Though the night all around me is falling
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling

And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there

None other has ever known
None other has ever known

Benediction and Commissioning

Postlude

Household Prayer:

Powerful God,
You hold us and everything you have made in your loving care.
You are in the whole universe and in every tiny creature.
Pour out on us, God, the power of your love.
And teach us to care for life and for beauty.
Fill us with peace, so that we do not harm others,
but love them all like sisters and brothers.
God, we know that people who are poor are very special to you
and you want us to love them too, so they are not forgotten.
We ask you to change us so that we protect your world, not destroy it.
Change the hearts of people who only care about themselves and money,
instead of caring about people and the Earth.
Show us how even small things matter,
help us see that we are all connected to each other and to the earth.
We thank you God for being with us each day,
fill us up with wonder and light,
and help us to bring peace to our beautiful world.
Amen.

Welcomers: Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Lynne Lamb, David Gohn

Worship Schedule

September 15	17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Linda Butler
September 22	18 th Sunday after Pentecost	Social Justice Committee
September 29	National Day of Reconciliation	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
October 6	World Wide Communion	Rev. Jeff Hawkins