



October 27, 2024

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church

October 27, 2024

Anniversary Sunday

*Presiding: Rev. Gord Dunbar
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land and by these waters. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and of their spirituality.

We begin our worship this morning by acknowledging the Haldimand tract –

10 kilometres of land on either side of the Grand River –

traditional territory of the Six Nations of the Grand River,

the Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, Cayuga, Onondaga and Tuscarora nations).

We are all Treaty people, parties to the Haldimand Proclamation in 1784.

Mindful of this covenant made – and broken –

may we grow into living with respect on this land,

walking into reconciliation through peace and friendship,

while honouring all who live, work and worship on it.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Happy Anniversary! Let's celebrate God's gifts within us and among us.

179 years is an amazing heritage!

We come in joy and with gratitude for the Spirit's leading.

Come as people who open minds, lives and hearts to Christ.

We come as those who serve in the name of Jesus.

Come in the midst of a changing world to embrace mystery.

We come – a little anxious and a lot worried – but trusting in God's creative, missional power.

As we come, let us sing of the One we be-love.

Opening Hymn: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

VU 326

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace.
- 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.
- 3 He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,

the humble poor believe.

4 Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,
your tongues again employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,
and leap, you lame, for joy!

5 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

Opening Prayer

Let us join as one in prayer:

**Loving, creative God, we come as those who enjoy control.
We like to know what is going to happen so we can plan ahead.
We don't like it when surprises throw a wrench into our plans.
It scares us – even terrifies us – when we ponder the future.
What will remain? What will disappear? What will change?
The shifts in our world, in our lives and in our church squeeze our hearts with apprehension.
Will we lose what we have worked so hard to build?
We reach out to you, O God, in the midst of our fears.
Hold us. Comfort us. Strengthen us. Enliven us.
We pray all this in the powerfully transformative name of Jesus. Amen.**

Children's Time: Gone Fishing

Assurance of Grace

Prayer of Confession

Scripture: Psalm 34:1-8 from the paraphrase *The Message*

I bless God every chance I get;
my lungs expand with his praise.

² I live and breathe God;

if things aren't going well, hear this and be happy:

³ Join me in spreading the news;
together let's get the word out.

**⁴ God met me more than halfway,
he freed me from my anxious fears.**

⁵ Look at him; give him your warmest smile.
Never hide your feelings from him.

**⁶ When I was desperate, I called out,
and God got me out of a tight spot.**

**⁷ God's angel sets up a circle
of protection around us while we pray.**

⁸ Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see—
how good God is.

Blessed are you who run to him.

Ministry of Music: United in Christ!

Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig, Music by Don Besig - Sung by the Melville United Church Choir, directed and accompanied by Colleen Weber and accompanied by Kaillie Rawn, trumpet

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52 from the *First Nations Version*

⁴⁶ Creator Sets Free (Jesus) and his followers walked through Moon Village (Jericho) and a large crowd followed behind them as they left the village. As the crowd passed, a blind beggar, whose name was Son of Honoured One (Bartimaeus) was sitting on the side of the road. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Creator Sets Free (Jesus) from Seed Planter Village (Nazareth) was there, he cried out loudly, “Descendant of Much Loved One (David), have pity on me!” ⁴⁸ Many in the crowd scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but this only made him cry out even louder, “Descendant of Much Loved One (David), have pity on me!” ⁴⁹ Creator Sets Free (Jesus) stopped walking, turned to the crowd, and said, “Tell him to come to me.” So they called out to the blind man, “Have courage! He is calling for you!” ⁵⁰ He jumped up, threw aside his outer garment, and walked with the help of others to Creator Sets Free (Jesus). ⁵¹ “What do you want from me?” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to him. “Wisdomkeeper,” he answered, “make me see again!” ⁵² “Be on your way,” he said to him, “Your trust in me has made you whole again.” Right then and there his eyes were opened! So he began to follow after Creator Sets Free (Jesus) as they continued on their way down the road.

Prayer

Sermon: Seeing Again Each Day

Hymn: “100th Hymn” by the Very Rev. Dr. Richard Bott (VU 331: AURELIA)

Taken from Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2024/2025 page 57. Used with permission.

1. In this now celebrated, for our one hundredth year,
of being Church United, a people we hold dear.
Communion ever changing,
as this world spins around,
disciples of Christ Jesus, dancing on holy ground.
2. Our roots so Presbyterian, Methodist, Union new;
Congregational joining, Evangel’ Brethren too!
Communities connected
with folks the world around,
called in by Holy Spirit, dancing on holy ground.
3. In Deepening our Spirits, we are Disciples Bold,
a people Daring Justice, to challenge powers old;
we have a call and vision,
to Christ’s love we are bound,

we are baptized, committed, dancing on holy ground.

4. Whatever future's calling, in ever-changing life,
the Church cannot be stalling, in fear of pain or strife,
we must be always living
Christ's love, deep and profound,
together, all Creation, this is God's holy ground!

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Graeme Chalmers celebrates on Oct. 27th
 - Chris Hopewell celebrates on Oct. 27th
 - Marlene Tosh celebrates on Nov. 1st
 - Judy Leitch celebrates on Nov. 1st

Prayers and 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.

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 share. (x2)

Offering Prayer

Clinking coins, rustling paper and PAR we offer to you, O God.
These coins, this paper and our PAR commitments are symbols:
symbols of our caring one for another;
symbols of our reaching into our community in love;
symbols of our embrace of our changing world in trusting you;
symbols of our faithful following of Jesus' Way.
May you bless our offerings of time, of talent and of treasure,
that we may be a blessing to the world as Christ-like disciples. Amen.

Parting Song: When We Are Tested MV 65 (Tune VU 642 Voices United: SLANE)

1. When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.
2. When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.

3. When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.

4. When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Saviour, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

Benediction

Postlude

Welcomers: Vivian and Havey Andrews

Counters: Chris Hopewell, Phil Brown

Worship Schedule

October 27	Anniversary Sunday	Rev. Gord Dunbar
November 3	All Saints Day / Blessing of the Poppies	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
November 10	Remembrance Sunday	Rev. Tom Watson
November 17	Children's Sunday	Social Justice Committee