



November 10, 2024

Melville United Church

300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9

Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M2W7

519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Minister of Pastoral Care

Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

Office Administrator

Custodian

Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

Office hours

E-Mail

Web Site

Rev. Marion Loree 519-835-8605

Ann Ward

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Lynda Rivet

Suzanne Flewelling

Allan Hons

Alison Rainford 519-843-3841

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.

secretary@melvilleunited.com

www.melvilleunited.com

**Melville United Church
November 10, 2024
Remembrance Sunday**

*Presiding today - Rev. Felicia Urbanski
Musicians – Colleen Weber (piano, organ) & Peter Hummel (bagpipes)*

Prelude – Colleen Weber

Bagpipes - *Green Hills of Tyrol & When The Battle's O'er*, played by Peter Hummel

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Let us pause for a moment and consider our role in reconciliation.

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 (*in unison*)

**We light a light in the name of the God who creates life,
in the name of the Christ Presence who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.**

Call to Worship (*responsive*)

On this Remembrance Sunday we gather to pray

for a world where no one will learn war anymore.

On this day when the guns once fell silent,

**we gather to pray for peace to reign in every heart,
home and nation.**

On this day of hope,

**we come before you, God, to remember all those
who gave their lives so we could be free.**

In this time of story, song, and prayer, help us to catch a vision of how the world could live together.

**And so, let's echo the old prayers—
make us channels of your peace.**

In that spirit, let us join our hearts in song.

Hymn: O God of Every Nation VU 677

1 O God of every nation,
 of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation
 with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
 and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
 and heal our strife-torn world.

- 2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.
- 3 Give strength to those who labour
that all may find release
from fear of rattling sabre,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
your still small voice be heard:
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.
- 4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division,
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when peace on earth shall reign
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

Opening Prayer (*responsive*)

Almighty God,

Grant that we who gather here today may pay fitting tribute and honour to the memory of those who have died in the service of their country.

May we be so inspired by the spirit of their love
and courage that, forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives,
We may live only to your glory and to the service of your people.
May we who desire peace be willing to work for justice.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Time for Remembrance:

(the children are invited to sit in the front pew, if they wish)

Children's Time – *Saying Goodbye to someone you love*

Reading – **In Flanders Fields** by *L.Col. John McCrae*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Reading of the Honour Roll – *World War I and World War II*

Prayer:

As we remember in silence before God those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, let us commend their souls anew to God's eternal mercy and compassion, and let us pray that God would grant us grace to serve faithfully until our life's end, to the honour and glory of God's Holy Name.

Last Post – *played by Colleen Weber*

Time of Silence

Bagpipes – *Flowers of the Forest (a lament)* - *played by Peter Hummel*

Unison Prayer:

**Eternal rest grant to them, O God, and may perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls, through your great mercy, rest in peace. Amen.**

Rouse – *played by Colleen Weber*

Ministry of Music: *I'll Be Seeing You*, lyrics by Irving Kahal and music by Sammy Fain,
played by Felicia Urbanski, violin, and Colleen Weber, piano.

(You are invited to sing along after the song is played through once):

I'll be seeing you in all the old familiar places
That this heart of mine embraces all day through;
In that small café, the park across the way,
The children's carousel, the wishing well.

I'll be seeing you in ev'ry lovely summer's day,
In everything that's light and gay, I'll always think of you that way,
I'll find you in the morning sun, and when the night is new,
I'll be looking at the moon, but I'll be seeing you!

(The children leave for their classes.)

Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16

God feeds Elijah and the widow

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there, for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink."

As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."

Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said, but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son.

For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth."

She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Mark 12:38-44

A widow's generosity

As Jesus taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets!

They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.

Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.

For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Sermon: Have I Lost my Poppy?

Hymn: VU #526 Weep for the Dead

- 1 Weep for the dead. Let tears and silence tell
of blood and battle, horror and renown.
The years diminish, but do not dispel
the pain of lives destroyed, and life laid down.

- 2 Silent the dead. Remembering we stand
silent as they, for words cannot esteem
causes of war, the love of native land,
all that they were, and all they might have been.

- 3 Raising our flag, we stand with muffled drum,
judged by the colours of God's love and loss,
recalling as we pray, 'Your kingdom come,'
a purple robe, and blood upon a cross.
- 4 Summoned by love that leaves no room for pride,
we pray that every continent and isle,
wounded by war, war's hate may lay aside,
and find a way to heal and reconcile.
- 5 Weep for the dead, from all the ills of earth.
Stand by the cross that bids all hatred cease.
March to the drums of dignity and worth.
Salute the King of Love, the Prince of Peace.

Joys and Concerns

- **Condolences**

- We offer our deepest condolences to the family of Margaret "Peggie" Ingram Dickie. Peggie passed away Friday, November 1, 2024. Visitation will take place on Friday, November 22nd, 2024, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Graham A Giddy Funeral Home, 280 St. David St. S in Fergus, Ontario. Funeral Service will be held at Melville United Church at 1:00pm on Saturday, November 23rd, 2024

Prayers of the People

Almighty God,

We thank you for bringing us together this Remembrance Sunday
to recall with tenderness and respect
those who lost their lives from this community
and the many thousands farther afield in the wars
of the last century.

We pray for all those still caught up in conflicts across the world, especially those today in the
Ukraine and in the Middle East.

We acknowledge what may be our own confusion about war
and how we might participate in creating an enduring peace.

Help us to meet with you in these moments of worship,

Make us ever mindful of your goodness toward us,
and strengthen us to be aware of the needs of others.

As we pray for peace, may it start with peace in our hearts.

We pause now to add our own prayers in this moment of silence.....

Almighty and eternal God,

from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life,

Hear our prayers for all this day, and help us to live in love and service, as we pray the words
that Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation

There are opportunities to give every day, certainly through gifts of dollars and cents, but also through courageous action, faithful service, and loving devotion. Let us share of ourselves and of what God has so graciously given.

Offering Hymn: VU 639 *One More Step* (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.

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, bless these gifts and these givers. May they be used well to foster peace and joy in this world and in the lives of those who cross our paths. May real and lasting change start now, with us, through us, and with God's blessing. Amen.

Hymn: Voices United #524, O Canada

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all our lives command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise, the True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Commissioning and Blessing

Having gathered, remembered, heard, given, and prayed, we ask, Almighty God, for your blessing and for your continual presence in our lives. Remind us that no matter where we go, you are there. No matter how bleak the world becomes, all it takes is one ray of light for a new day to be upon us once again. Go now in peace.

Postlude: O Day of Peace arranged by Charles Callahan

Household Prayer

Holy God, violence and hatred have so often overwhelmed our world. Today we remember and repent, as we acknowledge that, even in our own lives, hatred sometimes obscures love, and violence sometimes overwhelms peace. Heal us, O God. Assist us as we work for peace in our homes, our community, our church, and our world. Call us again to live lives of love, caring, generosity, and concern.

O God, whose will is love and whose desire is peace, be near to us as we remember and pray. The scarlet colour of the poppy reminds us of the blood that is shed in war, of the white crosses which remain on distant battlefields, and of the life blood that flowed from your own Son. May the seeds of peace take root in us, and blossom in a world where flowers may grow unharmed, and poppies of remembrance and gratitude flourish. Amen.

Counters: Barb Gregory, John Cuming

Counters: Chris Hopewell, Norm Porritt

Worship Schedule

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|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| November 17 | Children's Sunday | Social Justice Committee |
| November 24 | Reign of Christ Sunday | Rev. Tom Watson |

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| December 1 | 1 st Sunday of Advent | Rev. Jeff Hawkins |
| December 8 | White Gift Sunday | Anne Ward & Rev Tom Watson |