



November 17, 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 17, 2024

In God's Own Image

A worship service celebrating the Churches' Commitments to Children

Presiding: Social Justice Team

Ministry of Music: Suzanne Flewelling & Rene Crespo

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

This morning we acknowledge that we are gathering on the land of the people of the Petun, Haudenosaunee, 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 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 the Christ candle, reminding us that God's light shines among us and we are called to carry that light into the world.

Call to Worship

Beloved of God, we are called here today.

We are called at every age, from every corner, to gather.

Children of God, let us playfully worship together,

worshipping God who made each of us and loves all of us.

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Opening Hymn: I Have Called You by Your Name MV 161

I have called you by your name, you are Mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you, All my promises are true;

You are gifted, called and chosen, you are Mine.

I have given you a name, it is Mine;

I have given you My Spirit as a sign.

With My wonder in your soul, Make My wounded children whole;

Go and tell My precious people they are Mine.

Prayer of Confession:

God of All the Ages,

we thank you for this day,

for caring for us beautifully in this time.

We praise your name for the gift of children

in our lives and in our community.

Forgive us for times when we discount their voices.

**Help us share your story with one another
that we may remember your love written on our hearts.
Remind us to follow children,
as they lead us to living the kin-dom way.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

In the story of Genesis, when God created humankind—they were created in God's image! And indeed, God blessed them so they might grow and flourish along with creation. As children of God, we are blessed again and again with the love of God, and we are welcomed into relationship with Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: Jesus, Friend of Little Children VU 654

Jesus, friend of little children,
be a friend to me;
take my hand and ever keep me
close to thee

Teach me how to grow in goodness
daily as I grow;
thou hast been a child, and surely
thou dost know.

Step by step, O lead me onward,
upward into youth;
wiser, stronger, still becoming
in thy truth.

Never leave me nor forsake me,
ever be my friend,
for I need thee from life's dawning to its end.

Children's Time: I have Rights... and Responsibilities

Video: My Own Two Hands *by Jack Johnson*
<https://youtu.be/KILchBxn0pw?si=DeBhL6WDIkZuce1>

Ministry of Music: The Prayer of the Children *words and music by Kurt Bestor*

Can you hear the prayer of the children
On bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room?
Empty eyes, with no more tears to cry
Turning heavenward, toward the light.

Crying, "Jesus, help me
To see the morning light of one more day;
But if I should die before I wake
I pray my soul to take."

Can you feel the hearts of the children

Aching for home, for something of their very own?
Reaching hands, with nothing to hold on to
But hope for a better day, a better day,

Crying, "Jesus, help me
To feel the love again in my own land;
But if unknown roads lead away from home
Give me loving arms, away from harm."

Can you hear the voice of the children
Softly pleading for silence in their shattered world?
Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate
Blood of the innocent on their hands.

Crying, "Jesus, help me
To feel the sun again upon my face;
For when darkness clears I know you're near
Bringing peace again."
Can you hear the prayers of the children
Can you hear the prayers of the children.

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 11:18–21

18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Matthew 18:1–5, 19:13–15

The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Message: Our Commitment to All God's Children

Hymn: Peace for the Children

MV 149

1. Peace for the children, peace, peace.
Peace for the children we pray.
Following the path of One of peace,
We work for healing, we work for peace;
Peace for the children today.

2. Peace for the lonely...
3. Peace for the homeless...
4. Peace for the nations...
5. Peace for our planet..."

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Fred Martin celebrates on Nov. 20th
 - Heather Howes celebrates on Nov. 21st
- **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

Offertory Hymn: What Can I Do? MV 191

Offertory Prayer:

**Let us commit our hearts and our treasures to serving God
with the whole Body of Christ throughout the world.**

Mission Story <https://united-church.ca/stories/it-starts-education>

Prayers of the People

Gracious God,

We thank you for the gifts of this day,
for the time to gather with all ages, as part of the Body of Christ in the world.

Most of all, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus,
as he came to be guest and host at our tables.

We pray for the faithful all over the world,
that all who love you may be united in your service.

We pray for the church,
for our witness and action together in and around Canada and with our global partners.
May we support partners working with children. May we continue to love and serve as
Jesus taught, calling those on the margins to gather together for God's blessing.
O God, know our hearts. And love us, we pray.

We pray for the peoples and leaders of the nations,
that they may be reconciled one to another
in pursuit of your justice and peace.

We pray that our leaders,
national, provincial, and local
might serve with humility and grace,
remembering the needs around them
of all peoples and all ages.

We pray for all who suffer from prejudice, greed, or violence,

that the heart of your humanity
may warm with your tenderness.

We pray especially for all prisoners of politics or religion,
and for all refugees.

We pray for children of the world who face emotional, sexual, or physical violence.
Help us challenge behaviours and attitudes that cause harm,
and help us become advocates for a world that values children.

We pray for the land, the sea, and the sky,
that we may live with respect in creation
and use your gifts with reverence.

We pray that the generations beyond us
will love and respect your blessings of creation.
O God, know our hearts. And love us, we pray.

We pray for all who suffer the pain of sickness,
loneliness, fear, or loss,
that those whose names are in our hearts,
in the hearts of others, or known to you alone
may receive strength and courage.

And in the silence of our hearts, we name those dear to us
and those we meet yet do not know....
O God, know our hearts. And love us. we pray.

Now, let us use the words Jesus taught us, praying...

Lord's Prayer

Parting Hymn: Lord, Listen to Your Children VU 400

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.
Repeat

Commissioning

Let us go into the world daring to let children lead,
partnering with friends and neighbours,
as we seek God's justice and peace.

Blessing

May God, who loves us from our borning cry, go with us.
May Jesus, who welcomes us into relationship, stay with us.
And may the Spirit's persistent call for peace be with us.
This day. This week. And always. Amen.

Postlude: Forever Now written by Alan Chang, Tom Jackson, Ryan Lerman, and Michael Buble

I just met you seems like yesterday
You opened up your eyes
And I recognised your face
You know that you're the one that we've been waiting for
We're gonna keep you safe
First I held you in my arms
I knew I'd love you all the way

I tuck you in at night, another day has passed
Every week goes by a little faster than the last
It wasn't so long ago
We walked together and you held my hand
And now you're getting too big to want to

But I hope you'll always understand
That I'm always gonna lift you up
And I'm never gonna let you down
No matter what you do
I'm forever proud of you
I love you forever now

Through your ears I hear it, through your eyes I see
A world full of magic, full of possibilities
You know as well as anybody how tough this life can be
But you've got so much strength inside you
A strength I pray you'll never need

And I'm always gonna lift you up
And I'm never gonna let you down
Time flies by
I hope you realise that I
Love you forever now

I'm always gonna be right here
Always gonna cheer you up
I'm always gonna have your back
You're never gonna be alone

And I'm always gonna lift you up
No I'm never gonna let you down
No matter what you do
I'm forever proud of you
I love you forever now

I love you forever now.

Welcomers: Youth group

Counters: Lynne Lamb, Kaillie Rawn

Credits:

Rev. Miriam Spies is Minister of Young Families and Young Adults at St. Paul's United Church in Dundas, Ontario

© 2017 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice.

Worship Schedule

November 24	Reign of Christ Sunday	Rev. Tom Watson
December 1	1 st Sunday of Advent	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
December 8	White Gift Sunday	Anne Ward & Rev Tom Watson
December 15	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Rev. Tom Watson