



January 26, 2025

Melville United Church

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Minister of Pastoral Care

Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

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Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

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

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Melville United Church
A worship service celebrating
Black History and Culture
January 26, 2025

Social Justice and Outreach Team
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber

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.

Opening Prayer

Loving Creator, we gather to celebrate Black History Month, and we come in thanksgiving and with reverence. As we meet today we pray that our hearts be opened to hearing the stories—current and past—of Black siblings. We celebrate and honour them, for all they have contributed to our world, our villages, and personally to us. Bless our time this day, in the reading of scripture, the prayers of our hearts, and the joy of meeting each other, in this village where you have made your presence known, Amen.

Opening Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts MV 12

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
From failing embers build a blazing fire;
Love strong enough to overturn injustice,
To seek a world more gracious,
Come touch and bless our hearts.
Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
Create a space for spirit to grow in us,
Let life and beauty fill us,
Come touch and bless our souls.
Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
Set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
Help us to open doors of understanding,
To welcome truth and wisdom,
Come touch and bless our minds.

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we come with humble hearts, bringing our shortcomings and failures. We confess that at times we have hindered another's blessing by the words we speak and the actions we have undertaken. Forgive us when we have failed to support, encourage, or uplift those in need. Forgive us when we have undermined the dreams and aspirations of others or when we have withheld our assistance out of fear and indifference. In your grace lead us to a path of restoration and healing, Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hymn: This Little Light of Mine

1 This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine;
Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine;
Ev'ry where I go,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Children's Time: Shine Your Light

Ministry of Music: Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen *Traditional Spiritual. Arranged by Albert Mendoza*

Scripture:

1 Samuel 16:7

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Galatians 3:28

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus".

Hymn: In Christ There is No East and West**VU 606**

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north;
But one community of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord,
Close-binding humankind.

3 In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,
and neither slave nor free;
both male and female heirs are made,
and all are kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
In Him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Message: I Belong Here**Sharing our Joys and Concerns**

- **Birthdays**
 - Marg Shortt celebrates on Jan. 26th
 - Bonny Nevett celebrates on Jan. 29th
 - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint celebrates on Jan. 30th
 - Ginny Warren celebrates on Jan. 31st

Offertory Hymn: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me **VU 575**

- 1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Offertory Prayer

You are the God who sustains us. How can we ever thank you for all that you have granted us? For you have granted us our very lives, creating us in your own divine image, and calling us good. Thank you for the capacity and the privilege of giving.

Mission Story:

<https://wesley.ca/>

<https://united-church.ca/stories/helping-refugees>

Prayers of the People

Gracious Spirit, as we honour and celebrate Black History Month we reflect upon the life of Jesus, who walked among the people bringing hope, love, and healing to the villages he visited. During this month of remembrance and tribute, we lift up the stories and legacies of Black siblings. We honour their resilience, courage, and perseverance in the face of adversity, just as Jesus demonstrated resilience amidst challenges.

We pray for those who fought against injustice, who led movements for freedom and equality, and who have inspired generations through their wisdom, talents, and leadership. May they be an example for us, as we strive for a world of reconciliation and justice. Guide our efforts to build bridges, dismantle barriers, and foster understanding.

We pray this in Jesus's name.

Lord's Prayer

Parting Hymn: We Shall Overcome by Pete Seeger (recently covered by Bruce Springsteen)

1 We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome, some day.
Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

2 We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand, some day.
Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

3 We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace, some day.
Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe
We shall overcome, some day.

Commissioning

Brothers, sisters, all, your dreams should not go unnoticed.

God knows your dreams.

Now dare to dream out loud

So the world may discover what you and God can do.
Release every God-given dream,
So that others may be inspired to do likewise.
To the author of every good and noble dream, we give all honor and praise. Amen.
(Source: The Africana Worship Book Year B (Volume 2))

Postlude

Welcomers: Barb Gregory, John Cuming

Counters: Kaillie Rawn, Chris Hopewell

Acknowledgement: Tracy Lee, a proud 5th generation Black Canadian from Brantford, Ontario, has inspired countless individuals through her captivating educational presentations, celebrating her heritage and igniting a sense of pride and belonging. Her presentation, “And Then What Happened... Black Canadian History - the untold stories” masterfully weaves music, storytelling, and a keynote spanning over 200 years of her family's history, highlighting the remarkable contributions and lasting legacy of Black Canadian pioneers who paved the way for future generations, leaving a profound impact on Ontario's history and inspiring positive change.

Worship Schedule

February 2	Celebrate Ministry	All Pulpit Supply
February 9	5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
February 16	6 th Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Linda Butler
February 23	Melville closes to worship at Hope Springs – Moderator Special Guest	

Council Meetings

- February 5
- March 5
- April 2
- May 7

Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.