



*Celebrating
179 Years*



March 9, 2025

Melville United Church
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**Melville United Church
Sunday, March 9, 2025
Lent 1**

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude

Gathering Song: Come All You People (Sung a capella) **MV 2**

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,
come all you people, come and praise your Maker.
Come now and worship your God.**

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Now is the time of returning,
returning to God, our first love.
Now is the time of turning away,
turning away from negative influences.
Now is the time of lifting,
lifting guilt's heavy burden.
Now is the time of renewing,
renewing heart, mind, and soul.
Now is the time:
Lent's pilgrimage of learning begins.
Come, let us worship and learn together.

Hymn: Come, Let Us Sing **VU 222**

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.
- 2 O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.
- 3 You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow

in the fulfilling love they know.

- 4 Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.

Opening Prayer:

Shape this moment with us, O God of Lent.

**Call us again in this time of challenge,
O God of questions.**

Journey with us once more through this land, O God of wilderness,
**and speak to us of ancient promises
breaking open once more.**

This is our journey, O God, and you are our guide.

May we travel together. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

When we travel through Lent, we travel light.

The story is heavy enough. What can we let go?

Guide our feet, O God, while we walk this valley.

We let go of the history that shames us;
of what we have done in the past.

Hold our hands, O God, while we walk this valley.

We let go of the words that hurt us...

what we have said that does not bring life to others.

Stand by us, God, while we walk this valley.

We let go of the things that bind us...

the things we believe about each other

that stop us living together in peace.

**We are your children, O God,
and we don't want our journey to be in vain.**

When we travel through Lent, we travel light.

We let go those things we do not need

so we can journey in the way of Christ.

**Search our hearts while we walk this valley
and forgive us, Holy Presence. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

In letting go of what hurts and shames us we make a new community possible.

May we travel in peace, in new life, in hope, and in promise.

So be it. Amen.

Ministry of Music: Nearer, Dear Savior, to Thee *music by William Clayton
arranged by Rebecca Belliston*

Children's Time: Where does God live?

Hymn: I Can Feel You Near Me God MV 48

1. I can feel you near me God I can feel you near
Yes I know you're with me God I feel you here
I can feel you near me God I can feel you near
Yes I know you're with me God Heaven is here.

Refrain:

And I'll jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you I will jump for joy
I'm singing Alleluia Jump for joy for you.

Repeat

2. I can feel you loving me yes I know you care
God I know you're loving me always everywhere
I can feel you loving me yes I know you care
God I know you're loving me I know you're there.

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:1-13

(Jesus tested in the desert)

Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit and she led him into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the tempter. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished.

The tempter said to Jesus, "If you are God's Own, command this stone to turn into bread." Jesus answered, "Scripture has it, 'We don't live on bread alone.'"

Then the tempter took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. The tempter said, "I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish. Prostrate your self in homage before me, and it will all be yours."

In reply, Jesus said, "Scripture has it: 'You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.'"

Then the tempter led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said, "If you are God's Own, throw yourself down from here, for scripture has it, 'God will tell the angels to take care of you; with their hands they'll support you, that you may never stumble on a stone,'"

Jesus said to the tempter in reply, "It also says, 'Do not put God to the test.'"

When the tempter had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The tempter awaited another opportunity.

Message: Being Tested

Hymn: On Eagle's Wings (Psalm 91) VU 808

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of our God,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: 'My refuge,
my Rock in whom I trust.'

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

- 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under God's wings your refuge,
God's faithfulness your shield. R
- 3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. R
- 4 For to God's angels is given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

'And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'

'And hold you, hold you in the palm
of my hand.'

Offering

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. (Repeat)

Offertory Prayer:

Not what we can take

but what we can give.

Not what we can possess

but what we can share.

Not what we can acquire

but what we can contribute.

Not what we can attain

but what we can achieve.

Not what we can earn

but what we can spend.

Not what we can secure

**but what we can give up.
This is how we will travel in Lent. Amen.**

Celebrations & Concerns:

- Birthdays
 - Allan Hons celebrates on Mar. 11th
 - Trudy Adsett celebrates on March 14th

Hymn: One Bread, One Body **VU 467**

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. R
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. R
- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all. R

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Today you are invited to come forward to receive the communion elements. Please come to the centre to receive bread from the common plate and then move to one side or the other for the cup. Anyone who cannot come forward will be served in your seat once the others are seated.

Invitation

As we come to this table...
.... are welcome here.

May God be with us.
God is here among us.
Let us open our hearts to God.
We open them to God and to one another.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer:

When things become cross-shaped...
....And so may we wait with you and listen for your call as we journey towards the cross.
Hear us as we sing with the angels:

O holy, holy, holy God,

(MV 203)

**O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always!**

This is our thanksgiving for all you have done and continue to do for justice and life, for truth and forgiveness, for promise and salvation. We remember Christ's life and death, and we sing of that mystery we call faith:

(MV 204)

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

And now, O God, we remember all with whom you would have us share this feast.

We pray....

....We offer these and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus the Christ, our brother, who stands among us as we pray together saying...

Lord's Prayer:

Words of Institution:

As we gather at this table....

.... Let the people sing:

(MV 205)

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

Breaking of the bread - Remember Jesus, bread for the journey.

Pouring of the juice - Remember Jesus, the cup of love.

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,

**whoever comes to me will never be hungry:
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are now ready.

Sharing the Elements:

Post Communion Prayer:

Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need,

here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world more just.

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Send us forth, O God,

in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.

Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing VU 481

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

Sending Forth: Hebrew Benediction

May God bless you and keep you,
may God always smile upon you;
May God's light shine forever on your path
and give you peace. Amen.

Welcomers: Barb Gregory, John Cuming

Counters: Mary Lloyd, David Gohn

Worship Schedule

March 16	2 nd in Lent	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
March 23	3 rd in Lent	Rev. Linda Butler
March 30	4 th in Lent	Rev. Tom Watson
April 6	5 th in Lent	Rev. Jeff Hawkins

Council Meetings

April 2

May 7

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