



April 6, 2025

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

Lara Johnston

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

April 6, 2025

5th Sunday in Lent

Presiding: Rev. Jeff Hawkins

Ministry of Music: Suzanne Flewelling

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

God says to us: I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers flow in the desert.

The LORD does great things.

God says to us: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

The LORD does great things.

God says to us: I am about to do a new thing.

The LORD does great things.

So we worship God with songs of joy and prayers of thanksgiving.

Opening Hymn: Let Us with a Gladsome Mind VU 234

- 1 Let us with a gladsome mind
 praise our God, forever kind;
 whose great mercies still endure,
 ever faithful, ever sure.

- 2 God, with all-commanding might,
 filled the newmade world with light;
 for God's mercies still endure,

- 3 God has with a gracious eye
 looked upon our misery;
 for God's mercies still endure,

- 4 All things living God does feed,
 with full measure meets their need;
 for God's mercies still endure.

Opening Prayer:

O God, we come with grateful hearts, We praise you for your creation. We praise you, for Christ and his ministry. By the power of your Spirit, lighten our hearts in this time of worship, and help us brighten the lives we touch this week in Jesus' name. Amen

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: Deep Within *by David Haas*

Chorus

Deep within, I will plant my law,
not on stone, but in your heart.
Follow me; I will bring you back
You will be my own, and I will be your God.

Verse 1

I will give you a new heart,
a new spirit within you,
for I will be your strength.

Chorus

Deep within, I will plant my law,
not on stone, but in your heart.
Follow me; I will bring you back
You will be my own, and I will be your God.

Verse 2

See my face, and see your God,
for I will be your hope.

Chorus

Deep within, I will plant my law,
not on stone, but in your heart.
Follow me; I will bring you back
You will be my own, and I will be your God.

Verse 3

Return to me, with all your heart,
and I will bring you back.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, we gather in your name today, aware that you keep moving closer and closer to the cross. We confess it is not easy to follow your story. We confess we often struggle to decide what to give and whom to help. Forgive us when we look for reasons not to share, and excuse ourselves from acting generously, as you did. Lead us to learn from and follow the pattern of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

Psalm VU 126 (page 850)

When God brought Zion's captives home,
it seemed to us like a dream.

**But then our mouths were full of laughter,
and our tongues uttered shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations:

'God has done great things for them.'

**Truly God has done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoice.**

Sung response: We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.

Restore our fortunes, O God, as streams refresh the Negev.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying seed for sowing,

**shall come home with songs of joy,
bringing in their sheaves.**

Sung response: We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.

Scripture: John 12:1-9

Mary Anoints Jesus

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Plot to Kill Lazarus

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

Sermon: Count on Me

Hymn: Take My Life and Let it Be VU 506

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.
- 3 Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
- 4 Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 5 Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Lillian Gohn celebrates on April 7th
- **Condolences**
 - We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Neil Dunsmore (Neil's father) who passed March 29, 2025. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

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

Parting Song: Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights VU 108

- 1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.
- 2 The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,

embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.

- 3 We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.
- 4 And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on through
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.
- 5 So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!
- 6 Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

Postlude: Scarlett Purple Road by *The Stanley Brothers* sung by *Jeff Hawkins*, accompanied by *Suzanne Flewelling*

Welcomers: Barb Gregory, John Cuming

Counters: Norm Porritt, Phil Brown

Worship Schedule

April 13	Palm/Passion Sunday	Rev. Tom Watson
April 18th	Good Friday	Rev. Tom Watson
April 20th	Easter Sunday	Rev. Linda Butler
April 27th	Social Justice – Earth Day	

Council Meeting May 7th. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.