



**Celebrating  
179 Years**



**May 11, 2025**

**Melville United Church**

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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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**Melville United Church  
May 11, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
and Mother's Day Sunday**

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*Presiding: Rev. Felicia Urbanski  
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber*

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgement**

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** *(responsive)*

On this Mother's Day and Christian Family Sunday, we light the Christ candle to remind us that, in the words of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "The love of a mother is the veil of a softer light between the heart and God."

**May its light brighten our spirits, may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.**

**Call to Worship** *(responsive)*

Source of breath, blowing into us your likeness, enfolding us on all sides like a womb, and imprinting us with a lovely silence:

**Move every fibre in our being to resonate with your Spirit here.**

We look upon ourselves, and, in your gaze,

**We recognize dignity in ourselves.**

With you, we look upon the broken world

**and your expression impresses upon us compassion, love, and joy.**

You are like a wise Mother to us, O God, who unafraid, has learned trust in life, in death, and in life beyond death.

**You, who are mother to us,**

**lead us to such a pervasive love as yours,**

as we join in worship this day.

**Hymn: Come, Children, Join to Sing VU 345**

- 1      Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!  
        Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!  
            Let all with heart and voice,  
            saved by God's gracious choice,  
        now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!
  
- 2      Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!  
        Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!  
            Christ calls his people friends,  
            the helpless he defends,

a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

- 3 Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!  
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!  
The whole creation o'er  
let all God's love adore,  
singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

**Opening Prayer (in unison) VU 557 A Prayer for Homes and Families:**

**In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name. Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love, granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely, endurance to those who care for sick family members, and wisdom to those in fearful times of change. We thank you for gifts of love we have received from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion. As we have been loved by you and by others, so may we love. Grant us your peace, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

- Written by Ruth Duck 1990

**Children's Time: When You Thought I Wasn't Looking** *presentation by the children with Ann Ward.*

**Music Ministry: Stay With Us**, by Bev Foster and Susan Brown. Melville United Church Choir, directed by Colleen Weber, with Felicia Urbanski, violin.

**Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV Updated Edition) Reader: Ruth Sproule**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts

burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Hymn: Psalm 23, The Lord's My Shepherd VU 747**

- 1 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me,  
the quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul he doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
even for his own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me; and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table thou has furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

**Reflection: Hearts Burning Within**

**Musical Meditation: You Raise Me Up**, by James Michael Stevens. Played by Felicia Urbanski, violin; Colleen Weber, piano

**Communion Liturgy Prayer after Communion (in unison):**

**Loving God, as a mother feeds her children, you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life. Help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the community of faith. Through your Son Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns**

- **Birthdays**
  - Richard and Peter Wright celebrate on May 17th

## **Prayers of the People**

....We pray all these things in the name of Jesus,  
the first-born of your new creation: our hope, our life, who taught us these words to pray:  
Our Father....

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Offertory Invitation**

Whom should God send? Who will go for God's people?  
Here we are, God is counting on us.  
Let us share our gifts and our offerings in answer to God's call.

### **Offertory Song: VU 540**

Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.

### **Offertory Prayer**

### **Closing Hymn: Now Let Us from this Table Rise      VU 483**

- 1        Now let us from this table rise  
         renewed in body, mind and soul;  
         with Christ we die and live again,  
         his selfless love has made us whole.
- 2        With minds alert, upheld by grace,  
         to spread the word in speech and deed,  
         we follow in the steps of Christ,  
         at one with all in hope and need.
- 3        To fill each human house with love,  
         it is the sacrament of care;  
         the work that Christ began to do  
         we humbly pledge ourselves to share.
- 4        Then give us grace, Companion-God,  
         to choose again the pilgrim way  
         and help us to accept with joy  
         the challenge of tomorrow's day.

### **Benediction and Commissioning**

May God who brought us to birth by the Holy Spirit,  
strengthen us for the Christian life.  
May God who provides for all our needs  
sustain us day by day.  
May God whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care,  
send us out to live and work for others.  
And the blessing of God: Creator, Christ and Comforter  
be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

**Postlude: Sabbath Joy** by Norman Warren

**Household Prayer:**

Dear God, I pray for all your children who have lost their mother. Lord, I pray that you comfort them especially during this season where their loss is heightened with the reminders of those celebrating Mother's Day. Jesus, you help the broken-hearted, you care for those who are missing their irreplaceable mothers. Your word says blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted. They are comforted by you O Lord. So bless and strengthen them today, and fill them with joyful memories and give them reasons to smile despite the pain. Amen.

(from <https://capuk.org/news-and-blog/mothers-day-prayers>)

**Welcomers:** Barb Gregory, John Cuming

**Counters:** Karen Smillie, David Gohn

**Worship Schedule**

May 18 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Rev. Tom Watson
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Social Justice & Outreach
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Day of Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson & Lisa Leffler

Council Meeting June 4<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.