



**September 21, 2025**

Melville United Church  
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**Melville United Church**  
**September 21, 2025**  
**15 Weeks after Pentecost**

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*Presiding: Karon Falk*  
*Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber & Guest Steve Falk*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements:** Welcome to all who gather to prayer, to learn, to sing and to praise God whether you are listening, sitting right here, or are watching on line. All are welcome.

**Territorial Acknowledgement:**

**Let's 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 of the Christ Candle**

The world struggles in shadows, a beacon is needed.

**The Christ Candle lit is the light that is heeded.**

Rejoice in the message, for God's love gives direction.

**The light of the world is God's enduring affection.**

As we come together, faith and hope are bound

**In God's safe place, where God's love is found.++**

Today we light the Christ Candle

**realizing that many do not live in peace.**

As this flame catches on and burns more brightly,

**We pray that peace from within may grow and transform our world.**

**Call to Worship**

Yoo-hoo! I thought that would get your attention. It is a common call to action; stop, turn, gather, pay attention, be transformed. I dare say that God uses such a call when declaring one day to be 'a day of rest'. Rest from regular working hours, time away from worries and fear-- to simply allow ourselves, all of us to be wrapped in God's creation of love and grace.

**Opening Hymn: I Am the Light of the World (v 2,3,4) VU 87**

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!'

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

- 1 When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds have found  
their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun: R
- 2 To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with warmth  
and good food,

to feel the earth below, the sky above! R

3 To free the prisoner from all chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see God's children everywhere! R

4 To bring hope to every task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in an old person's heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth! R

**Opening Prayer;** Oh, Great Creator, we come to you as a people who believe we know you. How do we find you Lord when the noise of the world drowns out your call? We gather for Worship together.

**When we come to worship we become infused with boundless glory and grace. Yet during the rest of the week those things can be far from our minds. Teach us to seek you through the clamour of the world. Remind us of your presence when daily life is swirling us away from your truth. We long for that connection with your love and your precepts. Help us to keep the Light of Christ within the grasp of our soul. Have mercy on us as we struggle to keep you nearby.**

In times of trouble and in times of peace--**The Creator is present.**

On the battlefield or sitting at the peace table--**The Christ is present.**

With the wounded and dying and with those who wait—**the Spirit is present.**

And what is God doing? --**Grieving over the injustice, grieving over the brokenness, grieving over the loss.**

Yoo-hoo! God is calling us back—to repentance, to renewal, to transformation, to life abundant, to peace within and to peace wherever in our cosmos it is not. So today in our songs and prayers let us worship the Creator God who is with all everywhere.++++ Amen and Amen.

**Ministry of Music: Morning Has Broken VU 409** *accompanied by Steve Falk*

**Children's Time: Sharing**

**Prayer of Confession:** O Great Source of Love, We gather together as God's people in our strength and in our weakness. We acknowledge that in our journey of faith there are times when we stumble thinking only of ourselves rather than living with God in our hearts. We take this time to confess our shortcomings in a pause of reflection on our actions. (Pause).

**Refrain: O God, we ask for your forgiveness.**

O Great Creator, we long to share your love with the world, but sometimes we forget that your love is for everyone, even for those who have wounded us. **Refrain.**

O Eternal Spirit, we experience all that is around us in creation and are blessed by beauty, but we forget to be good stewards of the earth. **Refrain.**

O God of All, we have a tendency to hoard our talents without recognizing how useful they may be in our lives. **Refrain.**

In silence we think of times that we have forgotten these things. **(Silence).**

### **Words of Assurance**

The Good News is that we are a forgiven people. Mercy abounds in God with us in love and caring. Following God's word is our source of strength and courage to live in abundance and constant faith. We are free to be what God meant us to be. each one unique.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

O God, your creative spark ignites our being, our very selves. O Spirit, your deep connection within and among all of us, creates our relationship through and in you. O Christ, your self-giving is our heartbeat within us. Receiving your Word today may we be open to your spark, your relationship and your heartbeat. We pray in earnest. Amen.

### **Scripture: Psalm 145 with Refrain, VU 866**

Every day we will bless you  
and praise your name forever.

**O God, you are great and highly to be praised;  
your greatness is beyond all measure.**

One generation shall praise your works to another,  
and declare your marvellous deeds.

**I will speak of your splendour and glory,  
and all your wonderful works.**

**We praise you, O God: we bless your holy name.**

You, God, are righteous in all your ways,  
and loving in all your deeds.

**You are near to all who call to you,  
to all who call on you in truth.**

You fulfil the desire of those who revere you;  
you hear their cry and you save them.

**You watch over all who love you,  
but the wicked you will destroy.**

My mouth will speak your praise, O God.

**Let every creature bless your holy name forever.**

**We praise you, O God: we bless your holy name.**

### **Luke 16: 1-13:**

#### **The Parable of the Shrewd Manager**

16 Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup> So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

<sup>3</sup> "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— <sup>4</sup> I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

<sup>5</sup> "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

<sup>6</sup> “‘Nine hundred gallons<sup>[a]</sup> of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

<sup>7</sup> “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels<sup>[b]</sup> of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

<sup>8</sup> “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. <sup>9</sup> I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. <sup>11</sup> So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

<sup>13</sup> “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

## **Response by all to the Scriptures: Thanks be to God**

### **Sermon: Resources**

**Hymn: God, Make US Servants of Your Peace      VU 676**

- 1      God, make us servants of your peace:  
      where there is hate, may we sow love;  
      where there is hurt, may we forgive;  
      where there is strife, may we make one.
- 2      Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;  
      where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
      where all is night, may we sow light;  
      where all is tears, may we sow joy.
- 3      Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek  
      to be consoled, but to console,  
      nor look to understanding hearts,  
      but look for hearts to understand.
- 4      May we not look for love's return,  
      but seek to love unselfishly.  
      For in our giving we receive,  
      and in forgiving are forgiven.
- 5      Dying, we live and are reborn  
      through death's dark night to endless day;  
      God, make us servants of your peace  
      to wake at last in heaven's light.

## **Sharing our Joys and Concerns**

- **Anniversaries**
  - Phil & Evelyn Brown celebrates on Sept. 23
  - Robert & Cathy Foster celebrates on Sept. 26
- **Condolences**
  - We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Havey Andrews who passed away on Tuesday, September 16th. Please keep the family in your prayers.

**Prayers followed by Lord's Prayer**

**Offering Hymn: 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. (2x)

**Offering Prayer:**

Holy One We offer these gifts of our time and talents and monies. Knowing you expect us to use every resource given to us, we give generously with love in our hearts. May our actions spread your love throughout the whole world. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

**Ministry of Music: What's So Funny 'bout Peace, Love and Understanding** *by Nick Lowe*

**Parting Song: Go now in Peace (2x):**

Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
 May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go

**Postlude: A Tune for A Trumpet** *by Gilbert M. Martin*

*Copywrite notice: Gathering Pentecost 2, Year C, 2025: pg.31 Robert Murdock: pg. 36 Leeyan Steinthorson; pg. 27 Phyllis Fleming; 2019, pg. 41 Gordon Dunbar.*

**Welcomers:** Mary Lloyd, Larry Broome

**Counters:** Lynne Lamb, David Gohn

### **Worship Schedule**

September 28 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Worldwide Communion	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Sunday	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	Rev. Tom Watson

Council Meeting Oct. 1, Nov. 5, & Dec. 3. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.