



February 1, 2026

Melville United Church

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9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. M, 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 Heritage
February 1, 2026

Special Guest: Tracy Lee Johnson

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.

Call to Worship:

Here, before you, in this place, there are no strangers.

All are welcome.

**Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,
love and compassion.**

**Here in our lives, let there be no divisions,
for God dwells in each of us.**

Come, let us worship in unity and love.

Opening Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts MV 12

1-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.

2-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.

3-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.

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.

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

Prayer of Confession:

**God of All Peoples, you created us in your image—
diverse, beautiful, and beloved.
Yet, in our world and even in our churches,
racism distorts our vision,
divides our communities,**

and diminishes your truth.

Forgive us for the ways we have been ignorant to the pain of others.

Open our hearts to stories that are not our own.

Give us courage to confront injustice,
even when it is uncomfortable or inconvenient.

We pray for those who carry the burden of discrimination.

We pray for those who have been told their voice doesn't matter.

And we pray that we may be transformed into people of compassion, humility, and justice.

Let your Spirit move through us as we build a church where every language,
every story,

and every culture is celebrated—
not merely included, but embraced as sacred.

In the name of Jesus,
who broke down walls of division,
we pray.

Amen.

—by YongSeok Baek

Words of Assurance

Scripture: Samuel 16:7

⁷ But God said to Samuel, “Do not consider their appearance or their height, for I have rejected them. God does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.”

Luke 18: 9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Message: My Heritage, My Story Tracy Lee Johnson

Hymn: Do Lord

I've got a home in Gloryland that (clap) outshines the sun, (Oh, Lordy)

I've got a home in Gloryland that (clap) outshines the sun,

I've got a home in Gloryland that (clap) outshines the sun,

Look away beyond the blue.

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,

Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh, do remember me,

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Look away beyond the blue.

I took Jesus as my Savior, (clap) you take him too, (Oh, Lordy)
I took Jesus as my Savior, (clap) you take him too,
I took Jesus as my Savior, (clap) you take him too,
While he's calling you.

Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me,
Look away beyond the blue

Mission Story [Join Us for 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 2025!](#)

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Russ Glendenning celebrates on Feb. 6th
- **Condolences**
 - We offer our deepest condolences to the family of Joan Foster. Joan passed away Jan. 29, 2026. A funeral will be held here at Melville on Saturday, February 7 at 11:00 am with a luncheon to follow.

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. 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.

At the same time, we pray for healing for people among us, and around the world who are living with pain or wounds or racial trauma.

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 remember those who are struggling this day, those we learn about through the news, those we pass on the street and do not know, those close to our hearts, our neighbours sitting beside us.

Be with each of them. Help them to know your love and grace.

Help us to recognize your presence among us.

Help us to hear your voice in the busyness of our lives. Help us to pay attention to your words all week long. As we make plans, work hard, and enjoy friends and family, help us to remember that we have purpose, your purpose.

Help us to always be building up your church, Christ's body in the world.

Help us to support, foster, and create faith communities that love the world, loving our neighbours as we love ourselves.

We pray this in Jesus's name, who taught us to say...

Lord's Prayer

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

I'm gonna live, so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime
I'm gonna live, so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime

Oh, and I'm gonna talk, so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime
I'm gonna talk, so God can use me
Anywhere, Lord, anytime

Offertory Prayer *(Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes)*

Loving God, accept these gifts.

Bless them and use them

to bring peace to places of unrest,

love to places of hate,

joy to places of fear,

hope to places of loss, and

equal rights and justice for all.

In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen

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: Mary Lloyd, Annie Denny

Counters: Allan Hons, David Gohn

Worship Schedule

February 8 th	5 th Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Tom Watson
February 15 th	Transfiguration Sunday	Rev. Linda Butler
February 22 nd	1 st in Lent (Communion)	Rev. Tom Watson

Council Meeting Feb 4, Mar 4. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.