



**May 17, 2026
7th of Easter**

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
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2026

Presiding: Rev. Linda Butler
Ministry of Music: Suzanne Flewelling

Prelude

Welcome & announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: You assure us, Jesus, that wherever two or three are gathered in your name,
you are there.

**All: We light this candle to remind us,
and to celebrate your constant presence.
May we always seek your guiding light in our lives.**

Call to Worship *Adapted from Fire and Bread*

One: God, you take us seriously.

All: You listen to our questions.

One: God, you walk alongside us.

All: You share our journeys.

One: God, you surprise us and bless us.

All: You fill us with wonder.

One: God, you call us together.

All: You call us to life.

Hymn: The Spring Has Come VU 187

- 1 The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day,
 the spring has come, let all the church be part of it!

- 2 The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
The world expands, let's spread the Gospel way in it!
New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust,
 the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!

- 3 The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.
New bud, new shoot,
 the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!

Opening Prayer

Hymn: This Is the Day VU 412

- 1 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.
- 2 Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,
to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God.
- 3 You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.
- 4 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.

Children's Time: In God's Hands

By: Lawrence Kushner and Gary Schmidt

Music Ministry: There's A Wild Hope In The Wind By: Lora Braun

VERSE

There's a wild hope in the wind: her whisper is heard on the breeze.
The gale is her shout that is calling us out. There's a wild hope in the wind.
O God in the wind, come gather us in, be our courage and promise.
The future is dim, but we want to live into a wild, wild hope.

VERSE 2

There's a wild hope in the skies: her gown is the blue of forever.
The purple of night is her heart's pure delight. There's a wild hope in the skies.
O God in the skies, come open our eyes, be our courage and promise.
The future is dim, but we want to live into a wild, wild hope.

VERSE 3

There's a wild hope in the earth: her body provides us with nurture.
The dark underground is where life can abound. There's a wild hope in the earth.
O God in the earth, come aid our rebirth, be our courage and promise.
The future is dim, but we want to live into a wild, wild hope.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 66

Parts Two and Three p. 785 VU

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise
this is our song of joyful praise

Part Two (8-12)

Bless our God, all peoples,
and let the sound of praise be heard.
 God has preserved us among the living,
 and kept our feet from stumbling.
For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
 You led us into the desert,
 you laid a burden upon our back,
you let sickness furrow our brow,
we passed through fire and water;
 but you brought us out to a land of plenty.

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise
this is our song of joyful praise

Part Three (13-20)

I will come to your house with burnt-offerings;
I will pay you my vows,
 the vows which I made with my lips,
 and swore with my mouth when I was in trouble.
I will offer fat beasts in sacrifice, a savoury offering of rams;
 I will prepare you an offering of bulls and goats.

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise
this is our song of joyful praise

Come then and listen, all you that fear God,
while I tell what God has done for me.

I cried aloud to God; high praise was ready on my tongue.
If I had cherished evil in my heart,
God would not have heard me.
But truly God has heard me,
has given heed to the voice of my prayer.
Blessed are you, O God,
for you have not rejected my prayer,
nor withdrawn from me your steadfast love.

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise
this is our song of joyful praise

New Testament Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Reader: Susan Barth

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.

Sermon: *Three Cups of Tea*

Hymn: Deep in Our Hearts MV 154

1. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.
2. Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.
3. Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;

deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

4. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Joys / Concerns

- **Birthday**
 - Gary Sproule celebrates May 22

Prayers of the People

The Lord's prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory invitation

Offertory Song: Take, O Take Me as I Am MV 85

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart
and live in me. *Repeat*

Offertory Prayer

Hymn: Bless Now, O God, the Journey VU 633

- 1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.
- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors,
whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.

3 Divine Eternal Lover,
 you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
 where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places,
 you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
 on roads, as faith is found.

Benediction and Commissioning

One: May we be filled with a deep certainty of God's presence.

All: May we be inspired by Jesus' ministry that is ever before us.

One: May we be comforted and challenged by the Holy Spirit.

**All: And may we all take with us the blessing of God, the source of Love,
Jesus, the Love Incarnate and the Holy Spirit, Love's Power.**

Postlude: Let's Go Together "Welcome" By: Mark A. Miller

Verse 1

Let's go together for a while and ask where we begin;
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in.
To be the hands of healing, and to plant the seeds of peace,

Chorus

Singing welcome
Welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

Verse 2

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,

Chorus

Singing welcome,
Welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

Verse 3

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!

Chorus

Crying welcome!

Welcome to this place.

You're invited to come and know God's grace

All are welcome, the love of God to share,

'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

Welcomers: Alison Rainford, John Cuming

Counters: Karen Smillie, Ruth Sproule

Worship Schedule

May 24th	Day of Pentecost	Rev. Dr. Karen Boivin
May 31st	Trinity Sunday	Rev. Tom Watson
June 7 th	2 nd after Pentecost	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
June 14 th	3 rd after Pentecost	Social Justice Team

Council Meeting June 3. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.