



**May 24, 2026
Day of Pentecost**

Melville United Church

300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9

Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M 2W7

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

Lan Ha

Suzanne Flewelling

Lara Johnston

Alison Rainford 519-843-3841

Monday-Friday, 9:00am-2:30pm

secretary@melvilleunited.com

www.melvilleunited.com

Melville United Church

May 24, 2026

*Presiding: Rev. Dr. Karen Boivin
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

The Spirit is here!

Like on-rushing wind.

God's Spirit is here!

Like bright, dancing flames.

The Church is newborn.

In a hubbub of voices.

The Good News is heard.

By all kinds of folk.

The Spirit pours out!

The children see signs.

God's Spirit pours out!

The elders dream dreams.

The Holy Spirit has come!

Hymn: Make a Joyful Noise VU 820

Refrain

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song!

- 1 Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song!

Refrain

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song!

- 2 Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.

Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song!

Refrain

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

3 Ages through endless ages,
 seasons of endless years,
 the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
 Worship your God with a song!

Refrain

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Prayer of Approach and Confession:

Designer of the Universe,
you have brought our lives together as Melville United Church
creating beautiful patterns of friendship and support.

As we share our stories, we make connections
that build our faith, and bind us to one another

Sometimes, however, we forget we are not solely responsible
**for directing, building, and maintaining
both your Church and our Christian lives.**

We stress about best ways forward to the point
it can upset our personal, familial, and communal harmony.

Help us to turn first to the guidance of your promised Counsellor.
**Spirit of Christ, in the silence hear our regrets
and our hopes for ourselves,
our families, and our Church family.**

(a time of silent prayer)

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Let us share the assurance that Jesus gave us,
**The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name will teach you all things
and will remind you of everything I said to you.**

(John 14: 26 NIV)

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: As the wind song through the trees Words: Shirley Erena Murray
Music: Lim Swee Hong Sung by: The Melville Choir

Scripture Reading: Acts 2: 1-21
The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Reflection: The Art of the Spirit

Wow! The disciples had quite a Pentecost in Jerusalem!

Jews from all over the Roman Empire had made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Festival of Shavuot. Greek speaking Jews called it Pentecost, meaning fiftieth because it occurred fifty days after Passover. The crowds depicted in Acts remind me of the departure lounge at England's Heathrow Airport; people from all over the world dressed in their customary dress, speaking the languages of their homelands.

The disciples, however, weren't recent pilgrims. They had been in Jerusalem since the forty days of Jesus' resurrection appearances. At a meal during that time, Jesus insisted that they not leave Jerusalem until they were provided with the gift God had promised; their baptism by the Holy Spirit. He said it wasn't for them to know when this would happen, but when it did, they would have the power to spread Jesus' Gospel around the world. Then as soon as Jesus finished saying that, he was taken up into heaven in a cloud. You can imagine the disciples left sitting there with their mouths hanging open.

By that particular Pentecost, Jesus' followers had reached about one hundred and twenty people and they were all gathered on that landmark day in one room. As our dramatists so wonderfully depicted there was quite the drama; the sound of a big wind, and what looked like flames dancing over the head of each follower baptizing them with the Holy Spirit as promised.

Having received the Spirit they then began to talk in tongues. It all made such a racket that it attracted a crowd. Those that witnessed it wondered, how each of them were able to understand the babbling as if it was in their own language?

Then the crowd did what many of us still do today when confronted with something spiritually extra ordinary. Some tried to find a way to explain it away. "How could this be?" they asked trying to reason it out. Others just refused to give it a second thought. "Aaah they're just drunk!" they said. Now adays there is a tendency to try to explain reports of unusual spiritual happenings past and present as metaphors and analogies, or to dismiss them as the symptoms of a mental illness.

One of my professors once said that a minister should consider a Doctorate of Ministry if they still have "an itch to scratch" after completing the university requirements for ordination.

I most certainly did. I wanted to know why Mainline Protestants are so reluctant to talk about spiritual experiences in our daily lives. The Bible is full of them; from small moments of grace, visitations, miracles and nature signs, to explosive moments like burning bushes and flames dancing over the heads of disciples. Many people who go on to be ministers, like me, were propelled in that direction by unusual spiritual occurrences. And I'm sure many of you have had some kind of spiritual encounter, have had others tell you about their special spiritual moments, or have read convincing accounts by religious and spiritual writers you admire. How comfortable are you to bring them up in conversation?

It breaks my heart to think people of faith carry those experiences around with them, wanting to explore them, but are not sure if Churches, of all places, are safe places to do so. And even more so, it's sad to think that people approach Christians thinking "Now here is someone who can help me understand what has happened" but they receive instead a cold shoulder. That's a missed opportunity for the Spirit to move that person to faith.

Trying to pursue my itch to scratch question ended up underlining the truth of it. There was only one Protestant Theological Seminary at the time offering a D. Min. in Reformed Spirituality in North America. And they would only allow me to write my thesis on spiritual experiences if I stuck to the avenues they considered acceptable; encountering the Spirit through prayer and Scripture (*lectio divina*). However, I hoped the tons of reading, and the smaller projects I was required to do in the congregation, would provide the opportunity to explore other ways to encounter the Holy Spirit. I should have realized, however, how hard it was going to be to find

anyone who would be willing to talk to me. Some of that reticence comes from the days when lay people were dissuaded from claiming such experiences with accusations that they would be acting above their station. Some of the individuals I approached said their spiritual experiences were too personal to share...which is fair. The main reason, however, for reluctance was demonstrated by almost every person who was willing to tell me their story. They would preface it by saying, "I hope you don't think I'm crazy..."

Many of you probably already know this, but my research revealed, that as Peter quotes from Joel in today's reading, people and especially children do suddenly become prophetic voices. Individuals of all genders, ages, and backgrounds have seen visions; heard God's voice; been given guidance or comfort through dreams and visitations; seen miracles and been given gifts of the Spirit that make their abilities miraculous.

We shouldn't jump to explain these experiences away, or to dismiss them. As Hamlet says, "There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy". The Spirit's work is art; it defies deconstruction. Sharing our experiences of the holy in all their forms builds our faith, builds up our faith community, and gives us hope, as it did the people present that amazing day 1993 years ago. This is the first reason why I am so adamant that these experiences be shared and explored more openly in our Churches.

The second reason relates to the individuals in the crowd outside the room in which Jesus' followers were speaking in tongues who heard them as if they were speaking the hearers' own languages. Spiritual experiences are the best bridges we can use to engage in conversation with people of other denominations, or religions, and with those who identify as spiritual but not religious. Each will use different theological language, symbols or stories from their own tradition to describe these holy events. But the core of those experiences will be understood by all as if we are speaking the same language; the language of divine presence, love and comfort; amazing grace and inspiring revelation; forgiveness and redemption; and spiritual guidance and the gift of artistic ability.

Soon in our service the Spirit will artfully turn our bread and grape juice into an opportunity to experience the holy feeling of being Church together. And the Counselor Spirit that Jesus promised will be waiting for you after the service to guide you in your discernment concerning a new minister.

Ministers often joke that our job descriptions now include everything short of walking on water. Marketing is especially a big request; to bring more bottoms onto pews especially young ones. The ministers overall call, however, is to be a conduit for the Holy Spirit, and to encourage you to be the same with them. That is how the Church began and that is how it will flourish. Amen.

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn: Behold, I Make All Things New (2X) MV 115

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,

beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,

my promises true,
for I am Christ the way.

Offering Prayer

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

- **Birthday**
 - Bunny Russell celebrates May 27
- **Anniversary**
 - Mary & Bruce Llyod celebrates May 26

Communion Hymn: I Come with Joy VU 477 vs. 1-3

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

Pentecost Communion Liturgy

Friends, Jesus invites us to share in this joyful feast!

“People will come from east and west, from north and south, and take their places at the banquet in the kingdom of God.”

The Spirit of God be with you.

And also with you.

Turn to God, the source of life.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks.

We offer joyful thanks to God.

Holy God of wind and fire,

**your Spirit renews the face of the earth
and warms the hearts of your people.**

We give you thanks for your gifts of Pentecostal power;

**tongues that utter prophetic words of truth and justice;
flames that kindle new visions of compassion and peace;
fresh breezes that blow down the walls**

which separate us from you and one another.

And so it is that we join with every voice and tongue
on earth and in the heavens to give you praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Words of Institution

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ,
we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Holy Spirit, unite us at this table and strengthen us
to live the resurrected life of Christ in the world.
Remind us of the form of that life
through the prayer that Jesus taught us,
which today we sing.....

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion:

**Eternal God, we thank you
that you have called your people
from east and west, north and south,
to feast at the table of Jesus Christ.
Keep us faithful to your will.**

**Go with us to the streets, to our homes,
and to our places of labour and leisure
that whether we are gathered or scattered,
we may be the servant Church of the servant Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: I Come with Joy VU 477 vs. 4-5

4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
 unseen, but ever near,
 is in such friendship better known,
 alive among us here,
 alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Commissioning and Benediction

**Let us go to discern well, through the Spirit,
the next steps for our Church's ministry.**

**And may we live artfully every day;
not led by our ego's desires
but by our hearts' response
to God's encouragement.**

Postlude: Hymn to Joy Music: Ludwig Van Beethoven arr. By: Edward Broughton

Welcomers: Mildred Perkin, John Cuming

Counters: Kaillie Rawn, Phil Brown

Worship Schedule

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
June 21	4 th after Pentecost	Rev. Linda Butler

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