



**May 3, 2026**  
**Mental Health Sunday**

Melville United Church  
300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9  
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Ministry of Music Team  
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*Presiding: Social Justice & Outreach Team  
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber*

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Lighting 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**

Leader: We gather in the presence of the One who abandons no one.

**All: Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter.**

L: All are welcome in this sacred place, made holy through your presence with us.

**All: Open our hearts and minds this day, guide us into a loving relationship with all your children.**

L: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

**All: Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging—a message that we share with others as we seek to live out Christ's love.**

L: We call on the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us.

**All: Amen.**

*(Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe, based on Psalm 104)*

**Opening Prayer**

God of love, today as we celebrate Mental Health Sunday, stir in us deep compassion for people living with brain disorders, mental health illnesses, and their families. Raise our awareness of how we can create a supportive and safe spiritual community for people who feel isolated, shunned and ashamed. Inspire us to reach out in love as a sign of your radical hospitality and grace. Encourage us to receive the gifts that are given by all, including those who are living with mental health challenges.

Amen.

*(Rev Dr. Sarah Lund)*

**Opening Hymn: *For everyone born, a place at the table* TLUS #23 Verses 1, 3, 5, 7**

1. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star over head.

**Refrain:**

And God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy,  
Yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice, and joy.

3. For gay, bi and straight, a place at the table,  
invited to wed, to baptize and preach,  
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,  
for queer, trans and ace, God's justice in reach.

**Refrain**

5. For bodies diverse, a place at the table  
All manner of speech and movement and minds;  
Enabled to lead and teach us new language,  
For bodies diverse, a church redesigned.

**Refrain**

7. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.

**Refrain**

**Prayer of Confession:** (in unison)

**God of promise and purpose,  
You set before us a dream of your new heaven and Earth,  
And we recognize that it calls for transformation.  
But we confess that we don't want transformation;  
We want easy fixes.  
We want the change, but not to do the changing.  
Forgive us, O God,  
For asking for change but not being willing to do the work.  
Forgive us for accepting the status quo, and for our roles in holding it up.  
Forgive our ways of thinking and acting that avoid transformation.  
Create in us hearts made new by your mercy and love,  
and move us to work toward your vision of a new heaven and Earth. AMEN.**

**Words of Assurance**

In the kin-dom of God, all are loved for who they are, not what they do;  
In the kin-dom of God, all are forgiven for what they do, and don't;  
In the kin-dom of God, all are welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.

Forgiven, loved, sent forth—we are not far from the kin-dom of God!  
Thanks be to God. AMEN.

**Children's Hymn: Make me a Channel of Your Peace** VU 684

Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love  
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You  
Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul  
Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love  
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

**Children's Time: God's Dream**

**Ministry of Music: Are You Lost?**

Words by Hannah C. Brown, Music by Sally Ann Morris, Sung by Melville Choir

**Readings:**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:35-40** Reader: Mardi Steiner

For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me. Then these just will ask, 'When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you? The ruler will answer them, 'The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did this for me.'

**Scripture Reading: James 2:14-17** Reader: Susan Barth

My sisters and brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save. If any are in need of clothes and have no food to live on, and one of you says to them, "Goodbye and good luck. Stay warm and well-fed," without giving them the bare necessities of life, then what good is this?

So it is with faith. If good deeds don't go with it, faith is dead.

### **Reflection: Just Community**

#### **Hymn: Will Your Anchor Hold VU 675**

1. Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,  
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?  
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,  
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

Refrain:

We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;  
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,  
grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.

2. It is safely moored; 'twill the storm withstand,  
for 'tis well-secured by the Savior's hand.  
Though the tempest rage and the wild winds blow,  
not an angry wave shall our boat o'erflow.

[Refrain]

#### **Mission Story**

Reader: Heather Halls

#### **Offering Invitation**

In our offering we share the measurable treasures of time, talents and resources. We are also asked to commit to sharing the immeasurable gifts of forgiveness, grace, compassion, acceptance and loving concern with each other and with ourselves.

#### **Offertory Hymn: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU 541**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures high and low,  
Give thanks to God in love made known,  
Creator, Word and Spirit one.

#### **Offering Prayer**

May these gifts help to build the community of care and compassion that we hope to create. A world where all are cared for without stigma or judgement. Where all have access to food, homes and support systems needed to survive and thrive. May they be a legacy of justice, hope, faith and most importantly love. Thank you for the many gifts you have given to us. May we use them freely and lovingly for daring justice. Amen.

*(Offertory and dedication prayers by Rev. Dr. Alydia Smith)*

#### **Joys & Concerns**

## **Prayers of the People**

Loving God,

We pray for all of your people.

We pray for the earth and all of its creatures.

We pray for those who struggle with poverty, mental illness and food insecurity.

We pray for those who plant and tend food gardens and then lovingly share that bounty with others.

We pray for those who make our Centre Wellington Food Bank a compassionate and respectful support centre. We pray for those at The Grove Hub who support Youth during times of crisis, with open doors, minds and hearts.

We pray for unity across our country.

We pray you will help us to be daring in all of our efforts to lend support and comfort.

And we thank you for your Son, who taught us this prayer ...

## **The Lord's Prayer:**

**Creator God, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **Closing Prayer**

God, we thank you for the hope of a new day and a fresh start.

We give thanks for the reminder that "it's ok to not be ok" and that it's better to tell the truth about what's really going on for us, to get support and help, then to suffer in silence and alone.

We thank you God that you never give up on us even when we feel like giving up on ourselves.

We are grateful for this faith community where we can experience sacred welcome, inclusion, support, and engagement for all.

Bless us as we share your love with others, furthering an end to the stigma and shame often felt by those in need.

Let us go forth and live as the call to the church invites us to do, as people whose deep spirituality draws them ever closer to God, the eternal, whose bold discipleship reflects their life as followers of Jesus Christ, and whose commitment to daring justice is a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence and power of transformation.

Amen.

*(Adapted, from Mental Health and Wellness: Worship Resources for AI)*

## **Benediction**

**Postlude: You'll Never Walk Alone**

Music by Richard Rodgers

**Song Video: *Just Love***

*By Joshua Bassett*

**Welcomers:** Mildred Perkin, John Cuming

**Counters:** Ruth, Sproule, David Gohn

**Worship Schedule**

May 10 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Rev. Tom Watson
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Rev. Linda Butler
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Day of Pentecost	Rev. Dr. Karen Boivin
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity Sunday	Rev. Tom Watson

Council Meeting May 6, & Jun 3. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.