



**Sunday August 16, 2026
12th after 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

Ministry Lead
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

Kate Keilty
Ann Ward
Colleen Weber, Suzanne Flewelling
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
Sunday, August 16, 2026**

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

Prelude

Welcome & announcements:

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ.
A light which cannot be held back by distance.

All: A light which shines in each one of us, no matter who or where we are.

Call to Worship *Adapted from Touch Holiness*

One: May the peace of God rest upon our busy lives
so that we may be quieted into prayer.

**All: May the love of God flow through our words
that they may be alive with opportunities for service.**

One: May the grace of God seek out our every need and
may the restless gospel set our hearts on fire.

All: Amen and Amen.

Hymn: Wellspring of Wisdom VU 287

- 1 Wellspring of wisdom, hear our cry.
The way ahead is parched and dry.
We seek a source to satisfy
our thirst for sanctifying waters,
wisdom for your faith-filled sons and daughters.
- 2 Dawn of a new day, put to flight
the terrors of a nuclear night.
As bearers of your loving light,
we huddle closer to your fire,
lift the lamp of hope a little higher.
- 3 Garden of grace, your gifts abound,
the sacred signs are all around,
the whole of earth is holy ground.
We learn, from all of life expressing,
how to grow in sowing seeds of blessing.
- 4 Call to compassion, help us bring
our burning need for nurturing,

the emptiness of everything
to your embrace, as we endeavour
to proclaim your holy name forever.

Opening Prayer

Hymn: We Give Our Thanks MV 187

1. We give our thanks to God,
2. We give our hands to you,
 because you reached for us.
3. We give our eyes to you,
 because you looked for us.
4. We give our feet to you,
 because you walk with us.
5. We give our hearts to you,
 because you first loved us.

Children's Time: *Forgiveness*

Music Ministry: Love Over Hate *From: Then Let Us Sing*
Words and Music by: John Oldman and Pay Mayberry

VERSE 1

Love over hate, our sacred song.
Sing in our hearts our voices strong.
All of the earth, each place, faith,
each one belongs.

Refrain

You of my heart, You of my soul,
You are the Love that makes us whole.
You of my heart, You of my soul,
You are the Love that makes us whole.

VERSE 2

Love over fear, our common dream.
Justice that flows, a mighty stream.
Kindness and mercy calling,
for you and for me.

Refrain

You of my heart, You of my soul,
You are the Love that makes us whole.

You of my heart, You of my soul,
You are the Love that makes us whole.

Verse 3

Love over lies, our promise true.
Healing and hope held high anew.
Strengthen our lives with courage
To carry us through.

Refrain

You of my heart, You of my soul,
You are the Love that makes us whole.
You of my heart, You of my soul,
You are the Love that makes us whole

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 133 *From: Psalms for Praying*

One: Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers and sisters dwell in unity!

All: It is like vistas seen from atop a mountain one has climbed...

One: Or like the stillness of a sunset after a long day's work.

All: It is like a shimmering rainbow, breaking through a summer rain.

One: When men and women dwell in harmony, the star of Truth appears!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28 Reader: Alison Rainford

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

"Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Sermon: Draw the Circle Wide?

Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide MV 145

Refrain

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

1. God the still-point of the circle,

'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.
3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

Joys / Concerns

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. (2X)

Offertory Prayer

Hymn: Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design VU 623

- 1 Dear weaver of our lives' design
 whose patterns all obey,
 with skillful fingers gently guide
 the sturdy threads that will survive
 the tangle of our days,
 the tangle of our days.
- 2 Take up the fabric of our lives
 with hands that gently hold;
 bind in the ragged edge that care
 would sunder and that pain would tear,
 and mend our ravelling souls,

and mend our ravelling souls.

3 Let eyes that in the plainest cloth
a hidden beauty see
discern in us our richest hues,
show us the patterns we may use
to set our spirits free,
to set our spirits free.

Benediction and Commissioning

Adapted from Touch Holine

One: Christ is the Way.

All: Let us follow and find freedom.

One: Christ is the Life.

All: Let us receive and rejoice.

One: Christ is the Truth.

All: Let us seek, sure that those who seek find.

One: And may the blessings of God, Creator, Christ and Spirit,
be with us now and all our days.

All: Amen.

Postlude: Let's Go Together - Welcome

From: Then Let Us Sing

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: Mildred Perkin, Annie Denny

Counters: Karen Smillie, Phil Brown

Worship Schedule

Aug 23 rd	13 th after Pentecost	Kate Keilty
Aug 30 th	14 th after Pentecost	Kate Keilty
Sept 6 th	15 th after Pentecost	Rev. Karen Boivin
Sept 13 th	16 th after Pentecost	Kate Keilty