

January 12, 2014

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**Welcome to Melville United Church
January 12, 2014 - 1st after Epiphany**

MINISTERS: The People of the Congregation

*You are invited to stand in body and/or in spirit.

Our Mission

We seek, we pray, we act knowing that Jesus is amongst us.

Our Vision

Knowing we are not alone on our spiritual journeys, Melville United Church seeks to be an open, compassionate and inclusive Christian community; honouring and serving the living Christ in all that we do.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE: Improvisation

Lighting of Candles

One: We light these candles to remind us of the presence of God

All: May the light of love surround us

INTROIT: VU 41 Christ is Born

Christ is born; give him glory!

Christ is born; give him glory!

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Remember the light?

It shone on us at Christmas

Come again to that light, it is shining still

It brings us hope, it brings us peace

It brings us joy, it brings us love

Come, come to that light;

It shines on us from God.

OPENING HYMN: VU 79 Arise Your Light Is Come

GATHERING PRAYER (one)

God of new manifestations, we thank you for this time of light and Epiphany. This is a special time. One where we seek new life in unexpected places, like a stable; where we seek advice of people who are different from us, like the magi; where we turn away from old habits that keep us from your love, like choosing a new road. These beginnings give us the opportunity to start fresh, like a new birth. Help us seize these moments, to find renewed ways of living in your light. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 42:1-9

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Graeme Chalmers

Reflections on Gaza

Guest Speaker - Eva Bartlett

Hymn: VU 679 Let There be Light

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING INVITATION

God knows each one of us by name and calls us to live our faith fully. One way that we respond is in bringing our gifts to God. Our offerings will now be received.

Anthem: By Gracious Powers - J. Ferguson

Offertory Response: VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter vs4

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise one, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

Loving God, receive our gifts and our thanks for love that surrounds us during epiphany and always. We commit ourselves again to justice, peace and compassion. Amen.

Prayers of the People, Prayer of Jesus

CLOSING HYMN: VU 87 I am the Light of the World

BLESSING

May hope fill your heart.

May peace bless your spirit.

May joy guide your journey.

May love light your way.

(Ted Dodd)

Choral Closing VU 35 Good Christian Friends Rejoice *(verse 3)*

Good Christian friends, rejoice

with heart and soul and voice!

Now ye need not fear the grave:

Peace! Peace!

Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all

to gain his everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save!

Christ was born to save!

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POSTLUDE: How Brightly Beams the Morning Star - D. Buxtehude

OUR WORSHIP ENDS - OUR SERVICE BEGINS

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Baptist Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Grace, Hanover

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Joan and John Cuming,
Susan Barth, Ken McManus

Counters: Jane O'Leary (C), Gary O'Leary
Brenda Ecclestone/Oates

ANNOUNCEMENTS Jan. 12, 2014

Eva Bartlett is an independent Canadian activist and freelance journalist who has spent long periods in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip volunteering with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) and reporting from the ground. She has given numerous talks on Gaza across Canada and in northwestern USA. Her website is ingaza.wordpress.com and her earlier reports were at opt2007.wordpress.com We thank Eva for being part of our worship today.

Rev. Austin Snyder, (retired) passed away in November 2013. Austin was a guest speaker at Melville several times and we enjoyed his sermons, which were filled with humour and personal insight. He was indeed a special man of God.

Spirituality Circle meets at 10:00 a.m. on Mon. Jan. 13 in the parlour.

Melville's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 23rd in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. As usual, lunch will be provided. Council reps are reminded to send their reports for inclusion in the annual report as soon as possible. Gerri needs time to prepare the booklet. The Stewardship Ministry Team will be looking for members to fill vacancies on the various ministry teams. Please give some thought as to where your talents can be best used. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Special delivery! A letter from Stewardship is ready for pickup at the back of the sanctuary. For those of you who use envelopes, your 2014 offering envelopes are available. If you have any questions about the changes taking place, please call Ralph Rainford 519-843-3841. Thank you.

Treasure Shop - Free Good Used Clothing Giveaway (for ALL ages babies to adults) Feb 1st , 2014 from 9:00 a.m. till 12 noon at Bethel Baptist Church, 675 Victoria Terrace, Fergus

Dear Friends at Melville United,

Thank you so much for the lovely farewell party and the very generous leaving gift. I truly appreciate your kindness. My time at Melville United has been rich and rewarding. Here, I have truly felt the presence of the Spirit. I have met some of the most amazing, gifted and faithful people and we have been blessed in our ministry together.

It was hard to say goodbye to you all and you will be happy to know that I am still crying as I read your good wishes in the book that I was given. (not surprised to hear that I am sure!)

I am happy that Marion Loree will be coming to Melville to join our existing ministry team. I know that you will offer her the same generous hospitality that I have experienced. God has great plans for Melville.

It goes without saying that I will remember our time together with great fondness, and carry each one of you always in my heart.

See you in Sarnia where you are welcome anytime. (I guarantee that it is not as bad as Neil paints it!).

With Blessings and love,

Val

Positive Change

Our congregation committed itself to the future when it entered into the process of Interim Ministry. We were blessed with a wonderful new friend, Rev Val Pitt, whose time as our guide was both healing and energizing. We accomplished a great deal of work – together – in order to set a vision for our church. We have faced the difficulty of saying good-bye to Val. Now, we are ready for the next stage ... to welcome the Reverend Marion Loree as our half-time Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care. Marion will deliver her first sermon on Sunday Feb. 9, 2014.

Change is not always easy. As you face this change, please remember back to the days before Val joined us. I never imagined such an amazing transformation, and with such fun and warmth. Did you? Let's be open to the possibilities!

Next week there will be a few other thoughts to get us all thinking about how positive change can be!

Blessings, Jane O'Leary

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Jan. 13 - Sun. Jan. 19, 2014

Mon. 13	10:00	Spirituality Circle	Parlour
Tues. 14	9:00	Quilting	Parlour
	2:00	Guided Meditation	Chapel
Thurs. 16	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 17	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Meditation	Library
Sun.19	10.30	Sunday Service	Sanctuary