

Melville United Church
Sunday, November 30, 2014 - 1st Sunday of Advent

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude: J. S. Bach - Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
Welcome & Announcements and Minute for Mission
Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

People of God, come, for the light of hope beckons us together.

From our solitude, we are called into community;

from our brokenness, we are called into wholeness;

from our fading, we are called into fullness;

**and from our wind-swept wandering, we are called to the path of
 new life.**

People of God, come, for the light of hope beckons us.

Let us take the hand of God and carry this light together.

Come, let us worship.

***Hymn:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs 1,2,6,7 **VU 1**

Opening Prayer:

Holy Presence, we open our hearts today to the light and the darkening;

to the wisdom and the wondering;

to the now and the not yet, of your presence.

Guide us into this new season,

for we are a people on a journey,

often afraid of the unknown -

often feeling alone in the wildernesses of our lives.

Yet we know that you are always with us -

our great and eternal companion.

Show us the way into the wonderful darkness,

and there, help us to discover you anew. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Loving Creator, as we journey together into this new season, we confess
 we often succumb to the many temptations of our empire-driven world.

We imagine that external things matter more than an inner life of connection with you and others.

We are surrounded by materialism and greed, yet we are ever hungry for more.

We feel emptiness within us, yet do not recognize this as the yearning of our spirits for connection with you.

Holy one, forgive us our transgressions and form us again, as the potter forms clay.

Shape us into the people of love you have envisioned for your creation. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Be assured that we are not lacking in anything - not even the blessings of new beginnings - for the Light of Hope shines in our midst today, leading our way.

May we follow this light into God's mystery and take God's hand, knowing we are forgiven and we are beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen!

Chorus: Prepare the Way of the Lord

VU 10

**Prepare the way of the Lord!
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a straight path for him,
make a straight path;
prepare the way of the Lord!**

(Repeat)

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Advent 1

Today we light a candle of Hope.

This is the Hope we search for;

Hope found in times of a new beginning,

Hope found in the time of getting ready,

Hope reflected in the smiles on our faces as we prepare and anticipate celebration,

Hope found in a time for thinking about God in our lives;

Hope carried in our hearts just like the donkey carried Mary to Bethlehem;

Hope found in the birth of a child;

Hope calling us to open our hearts and offer Love a place to rest,

just like the cow gave the Christ child her manger for a bed and hay for a pillow.

(The first candle is lit)

This is the candle of hope, hope for which we search.

In its glow, we are blessed. In its glow, God's love is revealed.

Song - The Friendly Beasts - vs 1,2,3

**1. Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
Humbly was born in a stable of wood;
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.**

**2. "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"Carried his mother uphill and down;
I bore his mother to Bethlehem town,
"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.**

**3. "I," said the cow, all white and red,
"Gave him my manger for his bed;
And offered my hay to pillow his head,
I," said the cow, all white and red.**

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *(Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation)* *(In every way, you have been enriched in Christ)*

Reader: Alison Rainford

Grace and peace from our Loving God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

I continually thank my God for you because of the gift bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, in whom you have been richly endowed with every gift of speech and knowledge. In the same way, the testimony about Christ has been so confirmed among you that you lack no spiritual gift, as you wait for the revelation of our Saviour Jesus Christ. God will strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Saviour Jesus Christ. God, through whom you have been called into intimacy with Jesus our Saviour, is faithful.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 80 (Part 1) **VU 794**
(Shine upon us, Shepherd of Israel)

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9 (*Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation*)
(*Tear open the heavens and come down*)

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would shake before you! As fire kindles the brushwood and the fire makes water boil, make your Name known to your adversaries, and let the nations tremble before you!

When you did awesome things that we could not have expected, you came down, and the mountains quaked in your presence!

From ages past no ear has ever heard, no eye has ever seen any God but you intervening for those who wait for you! Oh, that you would find us doing right, that we would be mindful of you in our ways!

You are angry because we are sinful; we sinned for so long - how can we be saved? All of us became unclean and soiled, even our good deeds are polluted. We have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

No one calls upon your Name, there is none who clings to you, for you hid your face from us and delivered us into the hands of our sins.

Yet you are our mother and father, YHWH; we are the clay and you are the potter, we are all the work of your hands. Don't let your anger go beyond measure, O God, don't remember our sins forever, for we are all your people.

Message: While You Wait

Rev. Marion Loree

Offering:

Ministry of Music: R. E. Schramm - When Will the Little King Come

***Offering Hymn:** In the Bleak Midwinter - vs 4 **VU 55**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

*Offertory Prayer: (in unision)

Holy Creator, today we dedicate ourselves anew - in our doubt, we promise our faith; in our fear, we promise our courage; in our comfort, we promise our eternal commitment to seeking justice and peace on earth. Bless this worship, and this offering, that they may be a reflection of our striving to live in the tension and the promise that are ours as your people. Amen.

Communion Hymn: As We Gather at Your Table **VU 457**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The elements of communion today will be served by intinction. At the appropriate time you will be directed to come forward to one of the stations, take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup, consume it and then return to your seat. Please take the time you need.

If you have mobility limitations please indicate to an usher that you wish to be served in your seat and the elements will be brought to you.

Invitation:

Let us gather as God's people.

We come open to God's grace.

We lift up our lives, our hearts, our strength;

we lift up ourselves to God.

We offer our thanks to God;

it is right to give our thanks to God.

We gather here....

....we join our hearts with all that have gone before, and proclaim:

O holy, holy, holy God, (MV 203)

O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above

bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n

creation sings your praise.

And blessed in the One who comes

and bears your name always!

We remember the witness of Jesus....
.... we sing of the mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, (MV 204)
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!

At this time we also remember....
.....as we sing together the prayer that he taught us...

The Lord's Prayer: VU 959

We pray you, God of Love, send your Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other, and to all the world.

Amen, amen, O Holy One! (MV 205)
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One,
Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,
whoever comes to me will never be hungry:
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Sharing of the Elements:

Post Communion Prayer:

Life-giving God, may we, who share Christ's body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and all creation will live to praise your name. Amen.

***Hymn: People, Look East VU 9**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Step into the world of this season, and take God's hand.

We will trust in God's wisdom even when our own cannot be found.

Go in the hope of new life that is held in the promise of advent light, and go in peace. **Amen!**

***Parting Song: There's a Voice in the Wilderness vs 1 VU 18**

There's a voice in the wilderness crying;
a call from the ways untrod;
prepare in the desert a highway;
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

Postlude: Improvisation on O come, O come Emanuel

Prayer of the Week:

O, God, that you would work in our lives in a mighty way! Help us to break the structures of oppression that we have created, which have ushered in injustice and disorder! Help us overcome our feelings of shame and failure. Work in us singularly and collectively such mighty deeds as may renew us through and through. Be with us, shepherd us that we may not lose our way. Amen.

December	Theme	Ministry
7th	Advent 2	Jen
14th	Advent 3	Marion
21st	Advent 4	Cantata/Choir/Matthias
24th early	Christmas Eve Worship Service for all ages	Marion/Jen
24th late	Christmas Eve Readings, Carols and Communion	Marion/Jen
28th	1 st After Christmas	Marion/Jen
Jan 4th	Happy New Year	Jen