



**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, December 14, 2014 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

**Prelude:** Improvisation

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship:**

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

**Let us follow this light into the wonder and heart of God's love.**

People of God, come, for the light of joy beckons us together,

**asking us, "who are you, what is your great joy?"**

Come, let us follow the light of joy and worship together.

**\*Hymn:**                    Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

**VU 2**

**Opening Prayer:**

Come, great spirit of Joy,

**and fill our hearts and minds today.**

Come, miraculous laughter,

**and help us to rejoice.**

Come, enlivening comforter,

**and give us the courage to proclaim and celebrate  
 the divine flame within us.**

Come, wondrous light,

**and lead us on this path toward new life.**

Come, for we are ready to hear your words and feel your presence.

**Come, for we are your people, longing to be renewed. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

Sometimes we have been asked, "What do you say about yourself?"

**and we may have answered... "I am nothing." or "I do not  
 matter."**

We may have been asked, "Who are you?"

**And we were silent, or proud, or boastful, or arrogant.**



Sometimes we miss our chance to proclaim your presence in all of who we are.

**Sometimes we fail to share your love through our talents and the way we live each day.**

Sometimes we fail to live in to the joy your love brings.

**We confess, Holy Kindness, that we sometimes miss the chance to proclaim the joy of your presence in all of who we are. Amen.**

**Words of Affirmation:**

The good news is that God lives within each of us. Know that you are beloved beyond measure, and do not hide your light of joy, for it is this light that will heal the world.

**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)

**Theme conversation/Lighting of the Advent Candle:**

**Advent 3**

*(As the first candle is lit)*

On the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle for Hope.

*(As the second candle is lit)*

On the second Sunday we lit a candle for Peace.

Today we light a candle for Joy.

This is the Joy we search for:

The Joy that comes when we go out of our way to help others,

**Joy that overcomes fear and repression,**

Joy that chuckles out from a young baby,

**Joy that connects us like a spider's silky web,**

The Joy of compassionate friendship that wraps us round like a blanket of wool.

**A joy to release us, a joy to delight us,**

A joy to encourage us and challenge the despair in our hearts.

**The Joy of service that is heard in the bark of a loyal watch-dog,**

*(The third candle is lit)*

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

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

**Song: The Friendly Beasts**

**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.**

**6. "I," said the spider on silken line,  
"Wove him a halo to be a sign;  
He'll be the Saviour to thee and thine,  
I," said the spider on silken line.**

**7. "I," said the sheep with curly horn,  
"Gave him my wool for a blanket warm;  
He wore my coat on Christmas morn,  
I," said the sheep with curly horn.**

**8. "I," said the dog from neighbouring farm,  
"Kept our sweet babe from every harm;  
At any strange noise, I barked in alarm,  
I," said the dog from neighbouring farm.**

**Ministry of Music:** An Advent Garden

**Scripture Reading:** John 1:6-27 (Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation)

(John testifies to the Light)

Reader: Alan Hons

**Responsive Reading:** Luke 1:47-55 (refrain 1)

**VU 898**

(Song of Mary-Magnificat)

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation)

(Rejoice always; pray without ceasing)

Rev. Marion Loree

**Message:** Rejoice always!

Rev. Marion Loree

**\*Hymn:** I am the Light of the World

**VU 87**

**Offering:**

**\*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 unison)

**We dedicate our gifts and our whole selves anew today.**

**We will dance! We will sing!**

**We will do our jobs and work for peace.**

**We dedicate our whole selves anew today**

**because in doing so we know we will discover our joy,**

**and God's glory. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**Prayer Prelude:** Come and Fill Our Hearts (sung 3 times) MV 16

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace,**

**You alone, O God, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace,**

**Alleluia!** (Repeat twice more)

**Prayers of the People:****The Prayer of Jesus**

**\*Hymn:** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

VU 35

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

God is close.

**We rejoice in God's presence.**

The world awaits,

**We rejoice in opportunities to serve.**

Incarnation is soon,

**We rejoice in the arrival of God's love.**

Go out with joy, knowing God lives in you.

**We will be our truest selves and live with whole and happy hearts.**

**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:** F. List - Good Christian Friend Rejoice

**Prayer of the Week:**

O Creator, we wait in readiness, longing to receive the promise of new life, which Isaiah and the prophets foretold and the gospels proclaim. Abide with us in this time of waiting so that when the great birth occurs, we will be faithful nurturers of your word and world. While we wait let us live fully and joyfully proclaiming your love in our lives. Amen.

December	Theme	Ministry
7th	Advent 2	Jen
14th	Advent 3	Marion
21st	Advent 4	Cantata/Choir/Matthias
24th early 5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Service for all ages	Jen
24th late 9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Readings, Carols and Communion	Marion
28th	1 <sup>st</sup> After Christmas	Marion
Jan 4th	Happy New Year	Jen

**Partners in Prayer:** Central Pentecostal Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Clavering, Wiarton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Graeme Chalmers, Isabel Weaver,  
Vivian and Havey Andrews