



Melville United Church
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781
Team Ministry

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January 6, 2019

**Melville United Church
Sunday, January 6, 2019
Epiphany**

* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time

Call to Worship (Responsive):

A star shining in the East,

discovered by those who have eyes to see the unusual and the challenging.

A journey into unknown territory,

taken by those who have courage and curiosity.

An encounter with an evil presence,

evil faced, yet resisted with care.

The Holy One recognized, in spite of humble origin,

the glory and the gifts given, to God's Chosen Child.

Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Eternal God, radiant with grace,

thaw our fears and snow-bound spirits;

make us shine with your Word, our hope;

shine with your communion, our life;

shine with your peace, our joy;

through Christ, who is our Light. Amen.

***Hymn:**The First Nowell

VU 91

Prayer of Confession (Responsive):

Light has come into the world but we love the night.

Love has come into the world, but we continue to hate.

Grace has come into the world, but we cannot forgive.

Hope has come into the world, but we are surrounded by despair.

New life has come into the world, but we are tired.

Peace has come into the world, but conflict continues.

Joy has come into the world, but we are sad.

(we reflect in silence)

Judge us, O God, by your gracious love.

Forgive us, O God, and set us free.

Words of Assurance:

Hear the Good News of the Gospel:

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Your sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Theme Conversation for the Young & Young at Heart: “Star Words”

Children’s Song: Will You Come and See the Light

VU 96

First Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead

of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 60 VU 886

Reader: Mary Lloyd

Second Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-18

The Escape to Egypt

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

The Massacre of the Infants

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: "New Understanding"

***Hymn: A Light is Gleaming VU 82**

Offering:**Offering Song:** In the Bleak Midwinter (*Verse 4*) **VU 55****What shall 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.*****Offertory Prayer (Unison):**

Though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, yet we offer ourselves and what we have. The story continues, Good News abounds. We worship and serve the living Christ. Let us rejoice and be glad! Amen.

Prayer Prelude: Away in a Manger (*Verse 3*) **VU 69****Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay****close by me forever, and love me, I pray.****Bless all the dear children in your tender care,****and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.****Prayers of the People:****Prayer of Jesus:*****Hymn:**What Child Is This **VU 74****Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Jesus said: You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine, that people around you will be moved by the good things you do, to glorify God in heaven.

Go in peace, God is with you. **Amen!**

***Parting Song:** Go, Tell It on the Mountain (*Verse 3 & Chorus*) **VU 43**

Prayer of the Week:

Radiant God, light for all people and all places, by the guidance of a star you led the Magi to worship the Christ Child. By the light of faith lead us to worship you in peace and love, and guide us in your way. We pray in the name of Christ, Light of the World. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Centre Wellington Foodbank

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Goldstone

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Doreen and Larry Broome,
Chris Hopewell, Karen Smillie

Counters: Karen Smillie and Larry Broome