

Welcome to Melville United Church

December 15, 2013 - 3rd of Advent - JOY - White Gift Sunday

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 on Chimes

Time of Quietening and 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 Opening Chorus: VU 22 Wait For the Lord 4X

Wait for the Lord, God's day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!

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Call to Worship

O come, all ye faithful.

Come to this time to worship.

Come away from the busyness of your lives.

Come away from all that weighs you down.

Come here and now to give yourself fully to God.

Come, all ye faithful and ye not so faithful too.

Lighting of the Advent Candle (on insert)

Lorri Wright and Doreen Ecclestone representing U.C.W.

HYMN VU 7 Hope is a Star - verse 3

GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

God of light and love. This morning let us be like Mary, filled with awe and wonder in the midst of fear and trembling. Let us be filled with the joy that calls us into action, to lift up the lowly and feed the hungry; as we prepare to welcome Christ within and around us. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: VU 1 O Come Emanuel V1, 2, 6, 7

Passing of the Peace

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

HYMN: MV 134 There was a Child in Galilee

THEME CONVERSATION

White Gifts are received.

Blessing of One Another

Readings

God your word is a light to our path,
Your word is a breath to our stillness,
Your word is water to our thirst:

Refresh us now and speak through your word. Amen (Kate Crawford)

Luke 1: 47-55 VU pg. 898-899 Mary's song of justice.

Matthew 11: 2- 11

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Don Grant

ANTHEM: Waiting and Longing - L Larson

MESSAGE: *"WHERE YOU STAND DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU SIT."*

- Nelson Mandela

Valerie Pitt

HYMN: VU16 Mary, Woman of the Promise

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING INVITATION

Just as God invited Mary to see the world differently, through Jesus, we see the world with new eyes. Let us give of ourselves, and our resources, to help others see promise and hope. Let us join together in our morning offering. (adapted from a prayer by Francis Flook)

Offertory Response: VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter vs 4

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)

God of light and love. Help us to turn the world around with these gifts offered in response to your love that all might live with hope, joy and promise. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERN

Prayer of Jesus

CLOSING HYMN: VU 29 Hark the Glad Sound

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: Prelude on Good Christian Friends Rejoice - J. S. Bach
Prayers for this worship service may be from Seasons of the Spirit or Gathering Magazine.

OUR WORSHIP ENDS - OUR SERVICE BEGINS

Partners in Prayer: Elora Canadian Reformed Church
Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: First, Cambridge
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Graeme Chalmers, Karen Smillie,
Joan and John Cuming
Counters: Norm Porritt (Captain), Linda Porritt
Graeme Chalmers

ANNOUNCEMENTS Dec. 15, 2013

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, welcome! Please sign our Guest Book at the back of the church or in the entranceway.

TODAY ! There is a Congregational Meeting, Sunday December 15, 2013
to receive the report and recommendation of the Joint Search
Committee.

Next week will be the choir Contata and a time to say farewell to Val
and to wish her all the best in her retirement.

Please note that the Christmas Eve Services will be 6:30 p.m. for the
family and 10 p.m. will be Communion.

Thank you to all that attended our "Hot Dog Day" on Dec. 1st. We were
able to donate \$221.50 to Pastoral Care for Homebound Gift Bags. Also,
a big thanks to the crew that turned up to serve and clean up.
- Mission and Outreach Committee.

All ladies of the church are invited to a UCW Pot Luck dinner, Dec. 16,
appetizers at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Come for good food, music and
fellowship.

Handel's Messiah sing-a-long, presented by the Guelph Chamber Choir.
December 22 at 3:00 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, Guelph.

Angel Memory Tree - This initiative will be done differently this year
from the past. If you wish to donate to the Angel Memory Tree project,
please use the Special Givings envelope in your pew and the collection
plate. Make sure you indicate "Angels" and make sure your name is clear
on the envelope. This donation will be added to your givings.

Advent Study Tuesday at noon and Wednesday at 6: 30p.m. (please let
Jen know if you plan to attend the evg. session) Turkey soup will be
offered at 12 noon. All are welcome to one or all of these sessions.
Books at the back of the church for \$10 each.

2014 United Church calendars are in. If you are interested in purchasing
one, please see Doreen after church. A reminder that Mission and
Outreach's Hot Dog lunch in December is in support of the Pastoral Care
shut-in bags which will include calendars for our shut-ins.. Please plan to
attend this lunch.

Please make note that the Church office will be closed from Dec. 25,
2013 until January 1, 2013 inclusive.

MELVILLE BOOK GROUP - our next book is available now in the church
library. It is "Left Neglected" by Lisa Genova. We will be discussing it on
Sunday, Dec. 29. Anyone is welcome to sign out a book even if you aren't
able to make it to discussion.

It is that time of year again! Please remember to get **your Annual
Committee Reports** to the office by the end of the year for inclusion in
Melville's Annual Report.

**Working for reconciliation, peace and justice in Palestine. Check these
websites:**

<http://www.sabeel.org/> Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre
<http://www.icahd.org/> The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions
<http://www.breakingthesilence.org.il/> Israeli soldiers talk about the
occupied territories
<http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/unsettling-goods>

Pray, choose and speak. Please continue to pray for peace and justice in Palestine. Become agents of change in the world. Be aware of goods made in the occupied territories i.e. Soda stream, Keda Plastic, and Ahava beauty products. Write to companies that sell these goods and boycott the purchase. Write to your M P, to Stephen Harper and John Baird to share your concerns.

The Canadian Government has extended the deadline for the dollar for dollar matching of donations made by individuals to registered Canadian charities - including the United Church - for Typhoon Haiyan relief. December 23, 2013 is now the date by which donations need to be received, either by the General Council Office or by congregations.

Hear the Prophet Callin' - The Elora United Church Choir presents the Christmas Story from Prophecy to Fulfillment. Come enjoy the voices of our special Cantata Choir. Sunday Dec 15 at 3 pm. A freewill offering will be taken to support the Mission & Service Fund. For more info call the church office at 846-0122.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 16 to Sun. Dec. 22 , 2013

Mon. 16	5:30	UCW Potluck	Fellowship Hall
Tues. 17	9:00	Quilting	Heritage Hall
	12:00	Advent Study	Parlour
Wed. 18	6:30	Advent Study	Chapel
Thurs. 19	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 20	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Meditation	Library
Sun. 22	9:30	Choir	Choir Room
	10.30	Sunday Service - Christmas Cantata	Sanctuary
Tues. 24	6:30	Christmas Eve - Family	Sanctuary
	10:00	Christmas Eve - Communion	Sanctuary