



Melville United Church
Sunday, December 21, 2014 - 4th 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 love beckons us together.

What love is this? How are we to follow?

This love calls from the margins and the centre; from suffering and comfort; from oppression and privilege.

We too come from the margins and the centre; from suffering and comfort; from oppression and privilege.

Then let us bring our love, and join it to this light of love, and gather in worship to discover the greatest love there is.

Come, let us bring our love to this time and place.

Come, let us listen and speak, sing and discern, pray and give, for now is the time to worship.

***Hymn:** A Candle is Burning vs 1-4

VU 6

Opening Prayer:

Holy Presence, we meet you in so many ways. Today, as we celebrate this wondrous season with music, let us meet you in the words, the notes and the message of the cantata we are about to enjoy. Let us hear your voice speaking and calling to us. Let this presentation be a true worship experience for us as we sit back and open ourselves to being enveloped in the beautiful sounds of Christmas. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Advent 4

(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.

(As the third candle is lit)

On the third Sunday we lit a candle for Joy

This week, our last Sunday in Advent, we light a candle for Love.

This is the Love we search for:

The Love that gives without counting the cost,

The Love that weaves compassion and justice together,

The Love that endures when the going is rough,

The Love that was sought by the wise ones of old,

The Love that shows itself in caring and encouragement,

The Love that is priceless when given by the smallest and poorest among us.

Love that breaks out in laughter, and is felt in the silence of friendship.

Love within us, love around us, Love that shines out when we care for others.

(The fourth candle is lit)

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

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

Song: The Friendly Beasts - vs 1, 9, 10

-as the camel and mice are placed in the stable.

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.

9. "We," said the camels, travelers bold,

"Followed the star that was foretold;

Bearing his gifts of spices and gold,

We," said the camels, travelers bold.

10. "We," said the mice, the poorest of you,

"Offered to him our love most true;

This gift the greatest of all that we knew,

We," said the mice, the poorest of you

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.

Cantata: Tapestry of Light

Readers: Rodger Dunlop and Linda Hill

Flute: Linda Mae Ogilvie

Prayers of the People:

The Prayer of Jesus

***Hymn:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

VU 48

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

May you be strengthened by the good news that God proclaimed in Jesus.

May you be drawn to the wonder of the mystery revealed.

Go in the glow of God's abundant love.

We go with hope.

We go in peace.

We go with joy.

We go in love.

Thanks be to God. 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: J. S. Bach - In Dulci Jubilo

Prayer of the Week:

Life-giving God, fill us with your grace. May we, who hear the announcement of Jesus' coming, give birth to your good news. 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 st After Christmas	Marion
Jan 4th	Happy New Year	Jen

Partners in Prayer: St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Quest Learning Centre

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Richard Wright, David Gohn,
Linda and Norm Porritt