

Melville United Church
December 24, 2014 - Christmas Eve - 5:00 pm

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Welcome to the sounds of Christmas!

**The excited voices of children,
the rustle of new Christmas outfits,
the chatter of families united.**

Welcome to the sounds of Christmas!

**Songs and words raised in awe
for a simple family with the gift of a child
wrapped in swaddling clothes.**

Prelude: Kling, Gloeckchen, Kling - German Traditional arr, by T.
Winebrenner I - Catie, Sarah & Jensen

Opening Prayer

On this night, God, for just a moment time stands still.

For just a moment, we stop and take pause.

For just a moment, our hustle and bustle,
our back and forth, our Christmas "chaos" is stilled.

We listen to the story of how you touched the world, then.

We listen to the story of how you touch us, now.

Open our ears, **we pray.**

Open our hearts, **we pray.**

Open our lives to Christmas hope. **Amen.**

Song: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1,2,7)

Mary's Vision

(Mary & Angel come forward)

Song: VU 14 To a Maid Whose Name is Mary (vs. 1, 4, 5, 6)

A Family Displaced

(Mary, Joseph, Donkey, Bethlehem Sign come forward)

Song: VU 64 O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1&2)

A Child is Born

(Peasants & Animals come forward)

Anthem: Pavane for Silent Night - arr. by P. Liebergen (Catie, Sarah, Jensen)

Those Keeping Watch (pt. 1)

(Shepherds come forward)

Song: VU 38 Angels we have heard on high (1, 2 & 3)

Those Keeping Watch (pt. 2)

(Angels come forward)

Song: VU 71 Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (Huron Carol)

The News Travels Far

(Magi & Star come forward)

Song: VU 67 Silent Night (vs. 1 & 3)

(Full cast on front steps)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

This night, this blessed night, we light the candle that brings all our candles together.

Tonight we light the Christ candle.

This is what we have waited for.

This is the hope, born of Mary,

This is the Peace, lived on earth,

This is the Joy of God's love shown in human life,

This is the Love that wraps us, holds us, sustains us and gives us life.

Tonight we celebrate Christ's light born again into the world!

With all of God's creatures we sing Hallelujah! Joy to the World!

(The Christ candle is lit)

This is the candle of Christ, a light to the world.

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

Dance: Mary, Did You Know - music arr. by J. Schrader

Sending & Blessing

Song: VU 59 Joy to the World

Postlude: Hallelujah Chorus - G. F. Haendel

December	Theme	Ministry
28th	1 st After Christmas	Marion
Jan 4th	Happy New Year	Jen

Partners in Prayer:

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Rev. Marion will be away on Study Leave from Mon. Dec. 29th until Tues. Jan. 6th. For any Pastoral Care concerns you may contact Alison Rainford at 519-843-3841.

Please make note that the Church office will be closed from Dec. 24, 2012 until January 5, 2012 inclusive. For emergency pastoral care please call Alison Rainford at 519-843-3841.



**Wishing you and your family a Happy
& Blessed Christmas**

May hope fill you heart.

May peace bless your spirit.

May joy guide your journey.

May love light your way.

