

**Melville United Church  
December 24, 2014 - Christmas Eve - 9:00 pm**

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

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**A Thought to Ponder:** Christ within us, the hope of glory to come.

**Ministry of Music:** The Schmidt family

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

*(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

*(As the fourth candle is lit)*

On the fourth Sunday we lit a candle for Love.

This night, this blessed night, we light the candle that brings all of these 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.**

**Hymn:** Still, still, still

**VU47**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-20 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)

**\*Hymn:** O Come, All Ye Faithful **VU 60**

**Opening Prayer:**

Bethlehem God, our time of advent is over.

**Emmanuel, God with us, your Light has come.**

The messengers' voices can be a cacophony of noise, but the message itself is clear -

**"Peace on earth, goodwill to all."**

O God! Still our rushing bodies. Silence our babble.

**Help us to hear the angels sing!**

May the joy of this holy time heal us and may we be open to the hope, peace, joy, and love that surround us at this holy time. Amen.

**Reflection:**

**Hymn:** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (seated) **VU 44**

**Reflection (continues)**

**Hymn:** What Child is This (seated) **VU 74**

**Reflection (continues)**

**\*Hymn:** Joy to the World vs 1, 2, 4 **VU 59**

**Christmas Prayer** (The Point of the Process - by Bruce Sanguin, *If Darwin Prayed*, pg 19)

**The Prayer of Jesus**

**Invitation to Communion**

**Ministry of Music:**

**The Communion Prayers:**

This bread...

This cup...

Christ among us,  
our food and drink for the journey.

**Response:** All poor ones and humble - 1<sup>st</sup> 2 lines of verse 2 **VU 68**

**The Christ Child will lead us,  
the Good Shepherd feed us  
and with us abide till his day.  
Then hatred he'll banish,  
then sorrow will vanish,  
and death and despair flee away.**

This bread...

This cup,

Christ within us,  
touch our vulnerability with love.

**Response:**

**The Christ Child will lead us,  
the Good Shepherd feed us  
and with us abide till his day.  
Then hatred he'll banish,  
then sorrow will vanish,  
and death and despair flee away.**

This bread,  
this cup,  
Christ in the world,  
source of deep joy.

**Response:**

**The Christ Child will lead us,  
the Good Shepherd feed us  
and with us abide till his day.  
Then hatred he'll banish,  
then sorrow will vanish,  
and death and despair flee away.**

This bread, broken and shared.  
 This cup, lifted high and shared.  
 New life in Christ.  
 Trusting in God's care  
 as Jesus trusted Mary's provision,  
 we come.

**Response:**

**The Christ Child will lead us,  
 the Good Shepherd feed us  
 and with us abide till his day.  
 Then hatred he'll banish,  
 then sorrow will vanish,  
 and death and despair flee away.**

In the quiet sharing of elements,  
 we ponder the story in our hearts  
 familiar - yet ever new.

**\*Sharing the Elements:**

**\*Post Communion Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** Silent Night

**VU 67**

**\*Blessing:**

**Parting Song:** Away in a Manger vs 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.**

**Postlude:** Hallelujah

-Leonard Cohen

*This service is based on "A Service of Lectio, Carols, and Communion" written by Larry Doyle, Bob Root and Darrow Woods, **Gathering** Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2014-2015, page 66. Used with permission.*

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:**

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:**

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

**Rev. Marion will be away** on Study Leave from Mon. Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> until Tues. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.**

