



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding this morning: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

May the light of Christ brighten the shadows of winter days.

May the joy of this holy time remain with us all year.

May our prayers and music be faithful.

And may we be open to the hope, peace, joy, and love that surround us.

Come, let us worship together.

***Hymn:** Angels We Have Heard on High

VU 38

Opening Prayer:

Bethlehem God: Our time of advent is over.

Emmanuel, God is with us. Your Light has come.

May your Light shine upon us during this time of worship.

May our worship offer you honour and praise and may it uplift us, nourish us, and bring us peace.

Let us be open to the wonder of this holy season as we worship together.

Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Tiny Christ, alive in our hearts, alive in the world - hear our prayer!

May this moment be the moment that changes everything. May this birth be the birth that turns our lives upside down, that calls us to hope, that baptizes us with love. Holy child of Bethlehem, this is our prayer. May it always be so. Amen.

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

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Jennifer Auger
Minister of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Ralph Rainford
Pastoral Care:	Millie Cumming, Elizabeth Stinson
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com

Words of Affirmation:

Hear the Good News: the spirit of the living Christ is alive in our hearts,
and we are set free to live fully.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Chorus: Joy is Now in Every Place vs 4 **VU 45**

**Now and ever may we find
your good news to fill our mind:
peace and love to human kind.
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.**

***Hymn:** Once in Royal David's city **VU 62**

Scripture Readings:

1 Corinthians 7:7

But each has a particular gift from God, one having one kind and
another a different kind.

1 Peter 4:10

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another
with whatever gift each of you has received.

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Message: The Midwife's Story

Hymn: Away in a Manger **VU 69**

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:**

**O generous Creator, giver of every good gift, let our offerings keep the
life of those gifts circulating. Accept, we pray, these tokens of our
gratitude for all we have received. May they be of use in extending
the work of our community to the world beyond our doors. Amen.**

Prayer Prelude: Come and Fill Our Hearts (sung 3 times)

MV 16

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
You alone, O God, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
Alleluia! (Repeat twice more)**

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** O Little Town of Bethlehem **VU 64**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go into the world, carrying the meaning of Christ's birth with you.

We go, carrying the light of Christ.

Go and live in his ways - loving always.

We go with God, knowing we are loved. Amen!

***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.**

Prayer of the Week:

Holy One, you come to us in many ways, now in this human form to
bring love into the world. Help us to welcome you and be
transformed. May we not be silent when justice calls. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Fenwick

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Peggie, Dickie, Diane Maloney