

Melville United Church  
December 24, 2015  
Christmas Eve - 9:00 pm

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

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**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today; Rev. Marion Loree

**Prelude:**

**Welcome**

**Prelude/Centering Time:**

**Ministry of Music:** - Linda Mae Ogilvie, Matthias Schmidt

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

*(First four candles are lit)*

East Side: *(To tune White Christmas- Irving Berlin)*

**I'm dreaming of a bright Christmas,  
with every Advent flame that lights.  
When our lives turn softly, toward the godly,  
and we hear angels in the night.**

West Side:

**I'm dreaming of a bright Christmas  
that will remind us of the Child.  
Newborn in a manger, no more a stranger,  
the One in whom God's love has smiled!**

*(The Christmas Candle is lit)*

All:

**We're dreaming of a bright Christmas,  
and now the Christ child's flame's alight.  
May these days be merry and bright.  
May we live Christ's love with all our might!**

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**Hymn:** Hope is a Star

**VU 7**

**Call to Worship:**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

**On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.**

For a child is born to us, a son is given,

**and authority will be on his shoulders.**

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

**Eternal One, Prince of Peace.**

Come, let us worship and welcome God's love into the world.

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

**VU 60**

**Opening Prayer:**

God of all Life,

you teach us abundant life

in the birth of a child.

With the angels, we shout -

**Glory to God! Hallelujah!**

God of all Love,

you teach us abundant love

in the choices of Mary and Joseph.

With the angels, we cry -

**Glory to God! Hallelujah!**

God of all hope,

you teach us abundant hope

in the awe of the shepherds,

in the warmth of the animals,

in the gift of the story.

With the angels, we sing -

**Glory to God! Hallelujah!**

**Glory to god in the highest!**

**Hallelujah! Amen!**

**Prayer of Confession and Affirmation:**

We have waited, loving God.

**We have waited for this time,**

**this wondrous celebration of your love for all humankind.**

We have waited, loving God.

**We have waited longingly  
for your promised time - an end to war and injustice.**

We get overwhelmed, O God.

**We get overwhelmed by the evils in the world,  
by the challenges of righting thousands of years of wrongs  
and addressing seemingly endless amounts of pain.**

We know, loving God.

**We know that your promise is real,  
and we know that we are called to help make it real.  
As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the one we call Messiah,  
we rededicate ourselves to being Christ's followers  
in a lost and hurting world.**

We give thanks, gracious God.

**We give thanks that,  
even in times of darkness and hopelessness,  
still you are here, a very real part of our world and our lives.  
Amen.**

**Ministry of Music:** Carol of the Stable                      Sung by Melville Choir

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-7

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

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-14

**Hymn:** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks                      **VU 75**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:15-20

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

**Reflection:** A Hallelujah Night

**\*Hymn:** Angels We Have Heard on High                      **VU 38**

**Our Christmas Prayers:**

Response at the sound of the chime:

**Be with them, loving God.**

**The Prayer of Jesus**

**Invitation to Communion:**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Sharing of the Elements:** *(people come forward to form a circle)*

*People will serve each other saying...*

**The life of Jesus in you...**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**Before "Silent Night"**

*(each person is invited to take a candle from the baskets)*

**\*Hymn:** Silent Night

**VU 67**

*(As we sing candles are lit)*

**\*Blessing:**

**\*Parting Song:** Joy to the World

**VU 59**

**Postlude:** Hallelujah Christmas

(Cohen/Cloverton)

sung by Marion Loree



**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.**

