



Melville United Church
Sunday, December 27, 2015
1st Sunday of Christmas



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time

Call to Worship:

As God’s people, we clothe ourselves in kindness.

We give thanks for respect and understanding.

As God’s people, we bear one another’s burdens.

We give thanks for assurance and strength.

As God’s people, the peace of Christ rules in our hearts.

We give thanks for peace and wholeness.

Come, let us worship, clothed in God’s presence.

***Hymn:** Once in Royal David’s City **VU 62**

Opening Prayer:

We offer praise this day, O God, remembering all that has been done for us. Especially in this Christmas season, we give thanks for Jesus, our friend, our teacher and our guide. As a new year begins, we ask that your Spirit be with us to help us follow Jesus’ example of how to make our world a little more loving. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

When we want to put Christmas away with the decorations,
forgive us, God.

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	Rev. Robin Osborne
Minister of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Mary Lloyd
Pastoral Care	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
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When we do not trust your Spirit to lead us into a new year filled with unknown tomorrows,

forgive us, God.

When we cannot let go of yesterday, and want to hang on to old ideas that don't serve us anymore,

forgive us, God.

When we panic because things are not turning out the way we want or expect, and when we cannot trust your surprises,

forgive us, God. Clothe us in your love that binds all things together.

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Jesus was sent to be among us, as one of us, not to judge but to offer forgiveness and loving care and to show us how to live in Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Chorus: VU 87 I am the Light of the World (Refrain)

I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!

**If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

Responsive Reading: Sing and Laugh for God (based on Psalm 148-Lectionary

Story Bible: Yar A by Ralph Milton)

(Let the Whole Creation Praise God)

Look up at the sky and sing,

Look up at all the birds!

God has given you your life.

Sing and laugh for God.

Can you see the sun and moon?

Can you see the sky?

The song they sing is meant for God.

Why don't you sing it, too?

The whales and fishes laugh for God!

Snow and rain laugh, too!

All the hills and mountains laugh!

Why don't you laugh, too?

Queens and kings will smile for God!

Old men and women grin.

Children and their parents smile.

Why don't you smile, too?

If you breathe then you can sing.

Sing your song to God.

God has given you your life.

Sing and laugh for God.

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness)

Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another - forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. Above all else, put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

Let Christ's peace reign in your hearts since, as members of one body, you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. Let the word of Christ, rich as it is dwell in you. Instruct and admonish one another wisely. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns and songs of the Spirit. And whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of Jesus our Saviour, giving thanks to God through Christ.

Message: The Other Wise Man - written by Henry van Dyke

***Hymn:** We Three Kings of Orient Are

Offering:

Offering Hymn: As With Gladness Men of Old - vs 3 VU 81

**As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our new born King.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**Take these gifts we offer, O God, and use them to enhance your
presence in our world. May they bring voice and hope and new life
to those who have none. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: And When You Call for Me MV 96

**And when you call for me, I have already answered.
And when you call for me, I am already there. (Repeat)**

Prayers of the People:

God of overwhelming love and grace, in this Christmas season we come before you in prayer. We remember how you choose to live among us, declaring that our world is a worthy place for you, the Creator, to be present.

And so at this time, we offer prayers for our world and for all who live in it. We especially think this day of those for whom this is a difficult time. For those who are missing loved ones who have died, or are far away. For those who are unable to be surrounded by others and who struggle with all the emphasis on family and togetherness in this season.

We think of all for whom the emphasis on "stuff" simply underscores not having enough. And we think of how grateful we are that you are in our world and in our lives and we ask ourselves How might we reflect Jesus' message of love in our daily living? How might we share with others the true joy that your love brings into our lives? How can we - like all creation - offer you the praise you deserve?

Open our hearts, loving god. Stretch our understandings of our world that we might find new ways to travel with others in the days to come.

Today we take a moment to share loving thoughts for our brothers and sisters of Harcourt Memorial UC, Guelph, Waterloo Presbytery and for all those who work on our behalf in other parts of our country and the world.

And we take a moment now to share with Spirit the things which we hold in our own hearts - our concerns and worries as well as our joys and our gratitude. Hear the prayers of our hearts... (silence)...

Today we remember _____

We have celebrated the birth of Christ who brought your love into the world in a new way. We have enjoyed time with family or friends. We have worshiped, prayed and sung together. May the glow of the Spirit of Christmas remain with us into the through the new year.

We offer these and all of our prayers in the name of the one who leads us, Jesus the Christ, and the one who taught to pray together saying...

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy VU 73

***Blessing:** Planet Earth Prayer (power point)

***Parting Song:** Go, Tell It on the Mountain - refrain VU 43

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

Loving God, in all times and seasons you surround us and embrace us. May we feel a true joy in knowing that, whatever is going on around us, you are ever-present. You seek to offer us hope and new life in the face of all things, and we cannot help but find out ourselves overwhelmed with joy. Amen