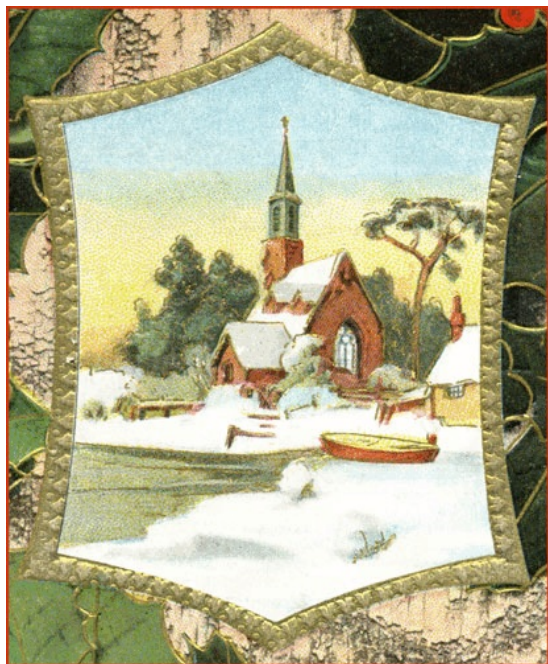


Melville United Church
Sunday, December 25, 2016
Christmas Day



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude: Carol of the Birds sung by Megan Schmidt

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Come, and sing a new song to God!

For God has done wonderful things!

God brings justice and salvation,

God's faithful love is for everyone.

Tell everyone to sing songs of joy in praise of God!

Make music and celebrate!

For unto us a child is born:

Jesus, the light of the world.

***Hymn: Joy to the World**

VU 59

Opening Prayer:

On this day of days, loving God,

we gather to celebrate the wondrous gift of your love seen in Jesus.

Born long ago and still today,

Child of the universe present among us.

May we, in the things we do and say, continue to give birth

to the presence of the living Christ

in our world today and always. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

What causes us to stop singing? What causes us to stop being amazed?

Why must we be reminded to sing, marvel, and remember love and faithfulness?

Forgive us, God, for the times we easily forget Christ born amongst us.

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	Jen Auger
Minister of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Allan Hons
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.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605

Help us to remember Christ's peace, love, compassion, and justice born and growing to the ends of Earth;

for all to see, to sing about, and to respond to in love. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Let all Earth praise it's maker. The seas roar, the hills sing together in joy, for love is here. All of you on Earth, make a joyful noise. Break forth in joy, for the One who teaches peace is with us.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory

VU 36

Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10

How welcome upon the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news - who announces peace, and brings news of happy things, and proclaims deliverance, saying to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Listen! Those who keep watch raise a cry, together they shout for joy - for they see with their own eyes YHWH's restoration of Zion!

Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For YHWH comforts the people, and redeems Jerusalem. YHWH bares a holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God!

Hymn: Still, Still, Still

VU 47

Scripture: John 1:1-14

In the beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light - a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light - the true Light that illumines all humankind.

The Word was coming into the world - was in the world - and though

the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it.

Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God - children born not of natural decent, nor urge of flesh nor human will - but born of God.

And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory - the favour and position a parent gives an only child - filled with grace, filled with truth.

Stories/Readings: The Give Away

Hymn: The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

VU 73

Offering:

***Offering Song:** What Can I Give Him? 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:**

Holy Presence, in the birth of Jesus you show your preference for all who are humble and poor and vulnerable. May this mystery save us from illusions of grandeur and power, and lead us to love simplicity of heart. Take these, our gifts and use them for good. Amen.

Joys & Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: May we but wait

MV 175

May we but wait upon Love's word,

Knowing our prayer is heard. (Repeat)

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain

VU 43

Blessing:

Go, and proclaim God's message of peace and good news.

Sing for joy. Say to the world "God is with us."

Let's go out and proclaim it on the mountains,
in the valleys,

in the city streets,
beside the oceans and streams.

In the forests and the open fields,
in schools and parks and workplaces.

Let's go out and tell the good news: Jesus Christ is born!

Go, knowing God's love is with you always. Amen.

***Parting Song:** 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

VU 71

Postlude:**Prayer of the Week:**

We offer you a new song, God. It is a song of thanksgiving, a song of regret, a song of passion, a song of praise, a song of lament, and sometimes it is a song of joy. We thank you for the ways in which you hear our prayers, whatever their tone. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Glen Morris

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Linda and Norm Porritt