

Melville United Church
Sunday, December 4, 2016
2nd Sunday of Advent - Hope

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke



Melville United Church
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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
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Prelude: Improvisation

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

We are all welcome to this place.

Just as you are, whatever hopes or worries are on your mind, you are welcome.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight.

Young or old, tall or small, we are all part of God's vision.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight.

Let us welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make the paths straight.

***Hymn:** Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness **VU 28**

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, there are times when we are filled with despair, boredom, apathy, and not hope.

We get tired and protect ourselves from hoping, afraid that we might get hurt or disappointed. Sometimes we can be mean and sometimes too passive. Sometimes we see only our differences, and do not take the time to listen and understand other points of view. Though we may strive for balance, we often fail to be as open-hearted and welcoming of others as we could be.

God of lions and lambs, sinners and saints, fill us with a Spirit of hope, that we may have the courage to forgive and ask for forgiveness.

Strengthen us in this hour, so that we may go out filled with hope to share with a hurting world.

Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

Today, we light the second candle in our community Advent wreath. We light the candle for hope, and remember that God lights our path.

We wait in hope.

Through the prophets, God tells us about a child who will lead the way into peace.

We wait in hope.

We remember John the baptizer as a voice crying out in the wilderness to "prepare the way of the Lord!" And so we prepare our hearts and minds as we wait for the blessed gift of Christ's birth.

We wait in hope.

Song: A Candle is Burning - vs 1 VU 6

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is night.

Theme Conversation

Hymn: Prepare the Way of the Lord VU 10

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10 (NRSV)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 72:1-8, 18-19 (VU 790)

Give the ruler your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal heir,
for judging your people rightly,
and upholding the poor with justice,
that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,
and the hills, prosperity with justice.

May your anointed defend the cause of the poor among the people,
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,
as long as the moon from age to age.

May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,
like showers that water the earth,

**may your anointed be one in whose days justice shall flourish
and peace abound till the moon is no more.**

Blessed are you, O God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvellous things.

Blessed is your glorious name for ever.

May the whole earth be filled with your glory.

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12 (NRSV)

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea,
proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This
is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his
waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of
Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along
the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan,
confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he
said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the
wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to
say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God
is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the
ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not
bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful
than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his
hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into
the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Message: Try Hope Instead!

Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming **VU 8**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: The Holy and the Ivy - A. L. Page (*from Carols and
Lessons*)

***Offering Hymn:** 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:**

Joys and 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:** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus **VU 2**

***Blessing:**

***Parting Song:** People Look East **VU 9** - vs 2
**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.**

Postlude: Noel Suisse - Daquin

Prayer of the Week:

God of New Beginnings, as we go out into a world torn by strife and battered by despair, fill us with hope. Grant us courage to work towards Your peace and justice, so that all the world might know joy and prosperity. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora Canadian Reformed Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Fifty United, Winona

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Vivian and Havey Andrews,
Richard Wright, Ralph Rainford

Counters:

Mary Lloyd, Kaillie Rawn