

Melville United Church
Sunday, January 1, 2017
A New Year's Day Service of Lessons and Resolutions

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements & Introduction to the Service

First Reading: John 1:1-5

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 98):

Sing to the Lord a new song

For he has done marvelous things.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

With trumpets and the sound of the horn.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

The world and those who live in it.

For the Lord is come to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness

And the peoples with equity.

Sing to the Lord our song!

Song: Unto Us a Boy is Born VU 54

Unto us a boy is born!

**King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation,
the Lord of every nation.**

2 Christ from heaven descending low

**comes, on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know,
becradled in the manger,
becradled in the manger.**

3 Herod then with fear was filled:

**'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!';
all the little boys he killed
at Bethlem in his fury,
at Bethlem in his fury.**

4 Now may Mary's son, who came

**so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us,
unto the joys above us.**

5 Omega and Alpha he!

**Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
doth rend the air asunder,
doth rend the air asunder.**

Opening Prayer:

God of the Way, you are the road we travel and the sign we follow. You are bread for the journey and the wine of arrival. Guide us as we seek to follow in your way. Be with us at this time of a New Year, new resolutions, new beginnings. Empty us of the old self-defeating ways, and fill us with a new spirit, that we might mirror your light in the darkness of the world. Amen.

Second Reading: Matthew 2: 13-23

Prayer for a Broken World I:

God of the poor, God of the rich, God of the merely comfortable: We confess that in over two thousand years, much has remained the same. Children and adults are still slaughtered by terrorists and warlords alike, millions of people are refugees, fleeing from war and environmental disaster. Millions more do not have enough to eat, or safe, clean water to drink, or sturdy houses to protect them from the elements, or access to health care. God of justice, we sit here, knowing that we have enough and more than enough, and yet have not always been willing to share. Create in us clean hearts and right spirits, so that your healing might come to all.

The First Card: We Name What is Broken

Third Reading: John 3:17 (NRSV)

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sung Response: Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New **MV 115**
(Sing Twice)

**Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you
And starting from today.**

**Behold, behold, I make all things new, my promise is true,
For I am Christ the Way.**

The Second Card: If I Could Fix One Thing

Offering**Prayer**

**God of the stable, God of the stars, God of light and darkness
both, we know that we cannot stand alone. We offer here our
gifts as affirmation that we stand with each other and with the
wider church. Bless these gifts, that those who are still in
darkness may see the light of your coming. Amen.**

Responsive Song: VU 55, What Can I Give Him, Verse 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him-give my heart.**

Fourth Reading: Luke 19:12-26

The Third Card: What Can I Do?

Song: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star MV 220

**Hope shines as the solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the
pathway home.**

Fifth Reading: Luke 21:1-4

The Fourth Card: Start Where You Are

Prayers for a Broken World II

The Prayer of Jesus

Closing Song: Like a Healing Stream MV 144

**1 Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth
...like a healing stream.**

**2 Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need
...like a gentle rain.**

**3 Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war
...like a river strong.**

**4 Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea...Like a river strong
...Like a gentle rain...Like a healing stream.**

Commissioning

Sung Benediction: Go Now In Peace VU 964

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you

Everywhere, everywhere you may go

Partners in Prayer: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Hagersville, Springvale

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Richard Wright, Ralph Rainford