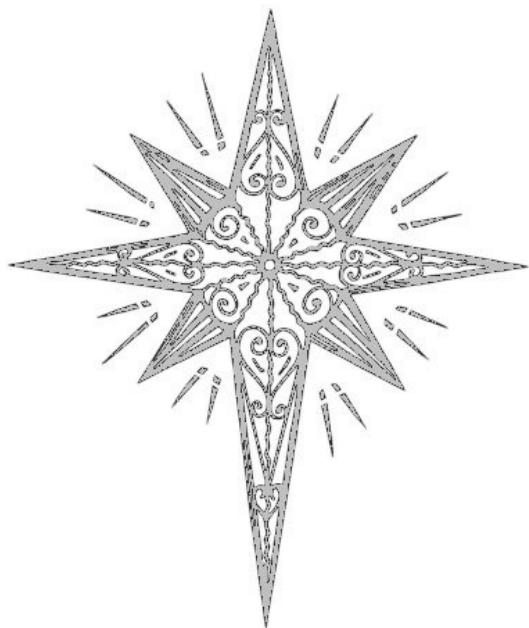


Melville United Church  
Sunday, January 8, 2017  
Epiphany (Observed)



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

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

**Presiding today: Ruth Cooke**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Centering Time/ Prelude:**

D. Buxtehude - Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern

**Call to Worship:**

Follow the star, and bring your gold,

**For we have come to worship the King of Kings!**

Follow the star, and bring your incense,

**For our God is the High Priests over all High Priests.**

Follow the star, and bring your myrrh,

**For our path leads to death on a cross, and on to the glory of Light  
Everlasting.**

Follow the star, and bring yourselves,

**For we have come to worship the living God!**

**\*Hymn: "Arise, Your Light Is Come"    VU 79**

**Opening Prayer:**

**God, we come to worship on this day filled with the wonder of your light, but also a little weary of the excesses of Christmas. In a time when the secular world is looking towards Valentine's Day and Easter, we begin another journey with you—one that starts with baptism in the spirit, and ends at the cross. Be with us as we learn and struggle and pray in this hour, that we might go forth strengthened and able to live the Good News of your coming in our lives. Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

**God of Gold, we confess that all too often, we worship the gold and not the King. We take the glory of Your Light, and attribute it to**

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.
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**ourselves. We love the incense for its smell, but ignore the words of the High Priest for whom it has been burnt. We'd rather find our own way than follow yours. And we'd much rather forget the myrrh, and the death it represents. We appreciate your gifts, but all too often fail to count the costs. Forgive us, God, and bring us back to reality so that we may worship only you, and appreciate the true value of all the wonderful gifts you have given us.**

*(We contemplate in silence...)*

**Words of Assurance** *(from Adapted from Psalm 72:1-2)*

God gives us justice, and judges us with righteousness. God upholds us, so that all people may have peace and prosperity and justice.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Chorus: God Says MV 172, Verse 1**

**God says, "Be still so you may hear the words I whisper in your ear. If you will listen, you will know I'm with you always where you go."**

Theme Conversation:

**Song/Hymn: "Shine, Jesus, Shine"**

**Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

2 For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

3 Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

5 Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

**Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Message: "A Cure for the Christmas Hangover"**

Ruth Cooke

**Hymn: "Will You Come and See the Light" VU 96**

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: What Can I Give Him? VU 55, 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 give him—give my heart.**

**Ministry of Music: J. B Lully - Far away**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**Giver of All Gifts, we give you thanks for the many riches you have bestowed upon us. Take here but a portion of those gifts. Bless them and us for service to all peoples in your world. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:

**Prayer Prelude: Bathe Me in Your Light MV 82, Verse 1**

**Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;**

**Let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.**

**Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,**

**Showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn: "Go, Make a Difference" MV 209**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth**

Arise, your light is come!

You have been blessed. Now go be a blessing.

**We go forth with God's blessing, to share the Light of lights.**

**We go forth in joy, with the Christ child to lead us. Amen!**

**\*Parting Song: I Am the Light of the World VU 87, Chorus & Vs 1**

**"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.**

**When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,  
The work of Christmas is begun:**

**"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.**

**Postlude: D. Buxtehude - Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern (vs 2)**

**Prayer of the Week:** Radiant God, light for all people and all place, by the guidance of a star you led the Magi to worship the Christ Child. By the light of faith, lead us to worship you in peace and love, and guide us in your way. We pray in the name of Christ, light of the world. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Knox Presbyterian, Elora/St. Andrew's, Alma

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Jerseyville

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Lorna Ziegler, Karen Smillie  
Doreen and Larry Broom

**Counters:**

David Gohn and Les Frayne