

**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday December 24, 2017**  
**Family Christmas Eve**



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

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding Today: Jen Auger

Welcome

Prelude

**Call to Worship**

Night approaches:

**Shepherds be awake.**

**Angels appear**

**to quake.**

Tonight Christ is born:

**Shepherds' praises now we make.**

**SONG - VO DU O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL (vs. 1,3)**

Advent Candle Lighting

**Beloved child of God.**

**Where have you come from?**

**Can we join you?**

I have been born of God's spirit.

Loved and cared for by human hands.

I am here to give Hope to the lost.

I am here to give Peace to the persecuted.

I am here to give Joy to the burdened.

I am here to give Love to the forgotten.

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:	
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:	<a href="mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com">secretary@melvilleunited.com</a>
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Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

**Family Christmas Eve - December 24, 2017**

I am here, to turn the world on its head.  
 To throw open the doors, and spread light in every dark corner.  
 I have been born of God's spirit.  
 And I have come that all may find God's spirit within them.

**Thank you Child of God, for each of these gifts.**

**We will join you on this Christmas night,**

**Opening our eyes to God within,**

**And our hearts to new ways of being.**

**Song - VU 7 Hope is a Star**

#### **Opening Prayer**

**This night, O God, we seek patience. We yearn for the birth of your Beloved, and in our excitement, we forget that you have planted us in a particular place. In our waiting, keep us attentive to our fields and flocks, trusting that your light shines around us here as we worship. Amen.**

#### **The Stories of Christmas**

*1. Isaiah's Story (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Isaiah 11:1-3a)*

**Song - VU 8 Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming (vs.1)**

*2. Joseph's Story (Luke 2:1-5)*

**Song - VU 67 Silent Night (vs 1, 3)**

*3. Innkeeper's Story (Luke 2:6-7)*

**Song - VU 69 Away in a Manger (vs. 1)**

*4. Shepherd's Story (Luke 2:8-15)*

**Song - VU 75 While Shepherds Watched (vs 1, 3, 4)**

#### **Prayer of the People, Prayer of Jesus**

Faithful God, on this night, the story of the shepherds reminds us that great news comes from unexpected voices. We open our ears to those voices to find you.

**With our whole being, we open ourselves to Love being born.**

As the night grows deeper, and the world uncertain, the story of the shepherds reminds us to keep watch. We open our hearts to find strength to carry through the nights of uncertainty.

**With our whole being, we open ourselves to Love being born.**

The night is growing still. We are weary. We are tired. We are wondering if we have been left out in the fields alone. We open our souls to connect with each other, a community of faithful.

**With our whole being, we open ourselves to Love being born.**

Ever-loving God, we wish for the sun to rise. We await the morning light to shine across the snow, bringing with it the hope of a new day. We open our whole being to your Love, come in the form of a most vulnerable baby.

**With our whole being, we open ourselves to Love being born**

Taking one more step toward learning to live and lean into Your abundant love, we join our voices together in prayer - for ourselves, for our loved ones, for the hurting, for our world - we say together the words Jesus taught his friends and loved ones:  
**Our father...**

5. *Mary's Story (Luke 2:16-20)*

**Song** - VU 73 The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy (vs 1, 2)

**Sending and Blessing**

Go out from this place like each of the characters in this wider story: to live with your whole being - your whole heart, soul, strength, and mind. Watching for your neighbour, watching for creation, and watching for God's presence in the most unexpected places.

**Parting Song:** VU 43 Go Tell it on The Mountain (vs 1, 3)

**Postlude:**

Thanks!

Script: Monica Rosborough, Mill Woods U.C., Edmonton, Alta.

Actors: Alison MacLeod, Sarah Schmidt, Megan Smith, Magdalen van der Wijst

**Welcomers:** Mary Lloyd, Isobel Glennie,  
Ralph Rainford



**Wishing you and your family a Happy  
& Blessed Christmas**

**May hope fill you heart.  
May peace bless your spirit.  
May joy guide your journey.  
May love light your way.**

