



Melville United Church  
Sunday, December 9, 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent



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

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship:**

We gather, longing for gentleness among all:

**peace is the home we seek.**

We gather, longing for healing where there has been harm:

**peace is the home we seek.**

We gather, longing for generosity to inform all actions:

**peace is the home we seek.**

We gather, longing for peace in all parts of life:

**God is the home we seek.**

Come, let us worship God in a spirit of peace.

**\*Hymn:** There's a Voice in the Wilderness

**VU 18**

**Prayer of Approach and Confession:**

We pray for peace,

in a world that feels turbulent:

**God, grant us a vision of your future,**

**so we may be people of peace.**

**Let it give us calm in times of chaos**

**and gratitude in times of reconciliation.**

Our ears are often full of the sounds of doubt, Holy One.

**Our mouths, too, often spout sounds**

**that contribute to the chaos of the world.**

In this season of preparation for love's arrival

**help us remember that peace begins with us.**

Open our hearts to know the peace your presence brings.

**Amen.**

<p>Melville United Church St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781 Team Ministry</p>	
Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	
Minister of Music Team:	Rob White, Suzanne Flewelling
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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**Words of Assurance:**

God comes to us in the innocence of a child, every child.

Open your heart in readiness to receive God's unconditional love.

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**Ministry of Music:****Lighting of the Advent Candle:**

*(written by Don Stiles. Gathering. ACE 2018-19, pg 70. Used with permission.)*

*(The first candle is lit).*

Today we kindle the Advent candle of peace.

*(The second candle is lit)*

We welcome the glow that causes us to pause,

**that glow that entices us to gather together,**

the glow that shines in hearts of goodwill.

**Come, Holy stranger,**

**sharer of peace on this Advent journey**

welcome us as we welcome you.

**We receive the light of peace.**

**Advent Song:** Peace Shines as a Solitary Star

**MV 220**

**Peace shines as the solitary star,**

**faith is the inner light.**

**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,**

**and illumine the pathway home. (Repeat).**

**Children's Prayer:**

**Dear God,**

**Help my lips to praise.**

**Help my hands to serve.**

**Help my heart to love. Amen.**

**Scripture:** Malachi 3:1-4 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*

*(A refiner's fire and a launderer's soap)*

Well, pay attention! I am sending my Messenger to prepare the way for me; the One you seek will suddenly come to the Temple, the Messenger of the Covenant whom you long for will come, says YHWH Omnipotent.

But who can endure the day of that Coming? Who can stand firm when that One appears? That day will be like a smelter's fire, a

launderer's soap. The one will preside as refiner and purifier, purifying the Children of Levi, refining them like gold and silver - then they will once again make offerings to YHWH in righteousness. Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to YHWH as they were in former days, in years long past.

**Responsive Reading:** Song of Zechariah

**VU 900**

*(Zachariah sings, "Blessed be the God of Israel.")*

**Reader:** Edith Hons

**Scripture:** Luke 3:1-6 *(New Revised Standard Version)*

*(A voice calling in the desert)*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

**Message:** A Violent Peace

**\*Hymn:** Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

**MV 173**

**Offering:**

**\*Offering Hymn:** Grant Us God, the Grace

**VU 540**

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,**

**with a spirit large and free,**

**that ourselves and all our living**

**we may offer faithfully.**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

God's peace shines through our gifts:

**The peace of challenges faced,  
the peace of hurts and slights forgiven,  
the peace of justice worked out,  
the peace which love brings to our hearts,  
the peace which Jesus embraced.**

Bless our gifts with peace, O God,  
as they are used for your work.

**Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**Prayer Prelude:** Open Our Hearts

MV 21

**Open our hearts, open our minds.  
Open our lives to you O loving God.  
Open our hearts, open our minds.  
Open our lives to you O loving God.  
Open our hearts.**

**Prayers of the People:****The Lord's Prayer:**

**\*Hymn:** I've Got Peace Like a River

VU 577

**\*Blessing:**

Renewed by the vision of God's way  
and refreshed by the friendship of community,  
we take up the call to seek God's peace.

**We will live the inclusive love of God,  
gift all with the peace of Christ,  
and do the good work of Spirit.**

Truly you are the people of God!

**Amen.**

**Parting Song:** Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light **MV 211**

**Go now in peace,  
guided by the light of Christ,  
so you may be  
nourished by the Word of Life. (Repeat)**

**Postlude:****Prayer of the Week:**

God of our noise. God of silence, we look to you to speak to and through us. We trust that you will cause your people to listen courageously, and cry out that love keeps its promises. Let your peace live in us. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Grace Christian Fellowship, Fergus

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** First Waterloo

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Mark Andrews, Chris Hopewell  
Joan and John Cuming

**Counters:** Kaillie Rawn and Phil Brown