

**Melville United Church
Sunday, December 1, 2019
1st Sunday of Advent**

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the Indigenous peoples with whom Treaty 4 - also known as the Haldimand Tract - was signed and the territory wherein our church resides, and we acknowledge our responsibilities as treaty members.

Prelude

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

Welcome & Announcements

Joys, Concerns & God Moments/Moments of Awe

Sharing the Light

We light a candle

**in the name of the God who creates life,
in the name of the Christ Presence who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.**

Lighting the Advent Candle: Hope

Voice 1 - On each Sunday of Advent, we light one candle.

A few weeks from now, all four candles will burn brightly, and we will know that Christmas has come.

Voice 2: *(read while the candle is lit)*

We wait, and we travel together in this Season of Advent.

This week our light is for hope. We remember the call of the prophet of long ago to travel in the way and light of God and to transform weapons into instruments of hope.

All: May the light of hope guide our way as we travel through Advent.

Advent Song: The Light of the World - Paul Chappel

**Hope is what we pray for this holy day,
As we wait for the coming of Christ,
And we light the candle of hope today,
As we wait for the light of the world.**

**The light of the world that comes at Christmas,
The light of the world that loves us all,
But we only see this light as a candle
as we wait for the light of the world.**

Centering Words: - Dietrich Bonhoeffer (*Wonder of Wonders*)

Whoever does not know the austere blessedness of waiting -
that is, of hopefully doing without -
will never experience the full blessing of fulfillment.
For the greatest, most profound, tenderest things in the
world,
we must wait.
It happens here not in a storm but according to the divine
laws
of sprouting, growing, and becoming.

***Gathering Hymn:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel **VU 1** (vs 1,2,6,7)

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

Call to Worship:

Come, let us go up to the mountain of God,
there we will receive instruction on how to live in peace.
Come, let us go to the house of God.
**There we will melt our guns into bridges,
and turn our bombs into wells.**
Come, let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer:

**God of holy peace, may our Advent prayers for your coming
be linked with Advent lives that follow your leading.
Transform our implements of death-dealing into tools for
life-giving. May we attend to prophets, old and new, who
bid us toward you. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession:

Holy Oneness, for the sake of well-being
**we seek forgiveness for the ways we fail
to love ourselves as you love us.**

For the sake of loved ones,
**we seek forgiveness for the ways we fail
to bring out the best in others and ourselves.**

For the sake of community,
**we seek forgiveness for the ways we have worked
against peace and goodwill.**

For the sake of "all my relations",
**we seek forgiveness for the ways we have failed
to tread lightly on Earth.**

For the sake of you, God.
**We seek forgiveness for the ways we have failed
to build your peaceable kin-dom. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

Each day of prayer and love helps us feel closer to God.
Do not lose heart as you put Christ into all your actions.
Listen to the hope of God!
Listen to the hope of God, in the noise of life around us.
Thanks be to God. Amen!

Ministry of Music: Christmas is Coming by Joel Raney

***Communion Hymn:** Bread of Life, Feed My Soul

MV 194

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The elements of communion today will be served by intinction. When the time comes you will be invited to come to the front, take a piece of bread from the communal tray then move to one of the cups on either side to dip and then consume your bread. Please take the time you need before returning to your seat. If you cannot come forward for whatever reason to receive the elements please indicate to an usher and you will be served in your seat.

Invitation:

As we come to this table we are reminded....
....- a place of re-remembering the Body of Christ.

May God be with us.

God is here among us.

Let us open our hearts to God

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving

Creator of air, of earth, of water, and of fire....

....as we join our voices together to sing;

O holy, holy, holy God,

(MV 203)

O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above

bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n

creation sings your praise.

And blessed in the One who comes

and bears your name always!

Maker of bread and wine, of community and communion, of the already and the not yet, we give thanks to these gifts we share together at the table and for the unique ways we receive them and we remember you.

And remembering your boundless love for us as shown in Jesus, we sing of the mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, (MV 204)

Christ will come again!

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,

Christ will come again!

At this time we remember and pray....

....We join these prayers together in the prayer that Jesus taught us as we sing it together...

Lord's Prayer: (Sung)

VU 960

Words of Institution:

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it and passed it to his friends saying:

"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Each time you do this, remember me."

In the same way he took the cup saying:

"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood.

Each time you drink from this cup, remember me."

We pray you, Holy Mystery, send your Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other and to all the world. May we be one as we experience the Cosmic Christ in our daily lives. Bless us and bless all others with whom we share this fragile planet.

Amen, amen, O Holy One! (MV 205)
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One,
Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking the Bread & Pouring the Cup

The bread we break
is our sharing in the life of Christ.
 The cup for which we give thanks
is our sharing in the life of Christ.

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,
whoever comes to me will never be hungry:
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are now ready

Sharing the Elements:

Prayer After Communion:

Though this was just a bite, a sip, a sliver of experience, we made taste, sound, smell, colour and mood come together in remembrance of the one who made love come alive on earth. Help us, in every moment, to experience and share your unconditional love. Amen

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)
 (Swords into ploughshares)

This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple will be established as the most important mountain and raised above all other hills - all nations will stream toward it. Many people will come and say: "Come, let us climb YHWH's mountain to the

Temple of the God of Jacob, that we may be instructed in God's ways and walk in God's paths."

Instruction will be given from Zion and word of YHWH from Jerusalem. God will judge between the nations and render decisions for many countries. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation will not raise the sword against another, and never again will they train for war. O house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of YHWH!

Reader: Alison Rainford

Words to Ponder: Moderator's Advent Message

-Rt Rev. Richard Bott

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)
 (No one knows the hour)

Jesus said: "No one knows that day and that hour - not the angels of heaven, nor even the Only Begotten - only Abba God.

"The coming of the Promised One will be just like Noah's time. In the day's before the flood, people were eating and drinking, having relationships and getting married, right up to the day Noah entered the ark. They were totally unconcerned until the flood came and destroyed them. So it will be at the coming of the Promised One. Two people will be out in the field, one will be taken and one will be left. Two people will be grinding meal; one will be taken and one will be left. Therefore be vigilant! For you don't know the day your Saviour is coming.

"Be sure of this: if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming the owner would have kept a watchful eye and not allowed the house to be broken into. You must be prepared in the same way. The Promised One is coming at the time you least expect."

Message: Active Waiting

***Hymn:** All Earth is Waiting

VU 5

Offering:

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

VU 540

***Offertory Prayer:**

Loving and generous God, truly there is enough for all, if we only learn to share it. Help us to share what we have with those who are most in need. Take these, our offerings, and use them for the good of all. Amen.

***Hymn:** Bless Now, O God, the Journey

VU 633

***Blessing:**

Awaken to the light of Christ around you,

in nature, in friends, in all my relations.

Awaken to the light of Christ between us,

in relationships, in bonds, in companionship and kinship.

Awaken to the light of Christ within you,

in gifts, in love, in instinct and being.

Awaken to the light of Christ,

may it bless and guide us always. Amen.

Parting Song: Take Up His Song

MV 213

Take up his song of hope and go into the world.

Take up his song of hope in ev'ry moment.

In ev'ry moment of the journey,

we're laying down our lives;

lay them down, in hope lay them down,

and take up his song.

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

God of Hope, bless our Advent journey, strengthen our faith, secure our bonds, and enliven our imagination for a better world. Grant us patience as we wait for you. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. James' Anglican Church, Fergus

Western Ontario Waterways: Ripley-Bervie/Kinloss PC

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Joan and John Cuming, Doreen Broome

Counters: Larry Broome and Richard Wright