

*Melville United Church*  
*Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019*  
*Christmas Eve Service – 5:00 P.M.*

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Congregation please stand as you are able  
**Bold print invites congregational response**

**Presiding: Lillian Gohn, Suzanne Flewelling, Martha  
Duncan**

**Special Guests: Organist, Joanna Wegman, Flutist, Annika  
Wegman**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**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.**

**Call to Worship:** (The Gathering: Andrea Allan, Knox U.C.  
Embro, ON)

This is it! Tonight is the night!

**The night we gather to share in the Christmas Story!**

The night we relive the marvel and excitement of a newly  
born child.

**We come together as one in worship and to adore  
Emmanuel, the child of God**

We come tonight to experience God born anew within us  
all.

**This is a holy night.**

This is a night of wonder. Come let us worship!

**Hymn:** O Come All Ye Faithful

**VU 60**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles:** (The Gathering 2019 - 2020 Gord Dunbar, Kincardine U.C)

**Advent Song:** A Candle is Burning

**VU 6**

**Opening Prayer:** (The Gathering: Roxanne Williams, Gaetz Memorial U.C., Red Deer, Alberta)

God of Innocence and Love,

You came on a cold, deep night to lonely shepherds  
watching their flock.

**Thank you, God of the starlit night!**

Angels' voices rang out over the hills with a story of a  
precious birth and a hymn of rejoicing.

**Thank you, God of angelic voices!**

You were wrapped in swaddling cloth, laid in an animal  
manger,

Your first visitors were animals and shepherds,

**Thank you, God of the welcoming stable!**

You brought with you new hope for tomorrow, love and  
peace for the earth.

**Thank you, God of new hope!**

**On this night, with all the earth, we are rejoicing. Amen.**

**Special Music:** Joanna and Annika Wegman  
-Piano/Flute Duet

**Presentation: Little Benjamin and the First Christmas**

(The story happened long ago, before the angel told Mary she  
would have God's Son)

**Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 1)**

**Carol: Away In A Manger (vs 1)**

**Carol: While Shepherds watch their flocks by Night (vs 1,2)**

**Carol: Joy to the World (vs 1,2)**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Hymn:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**VU 48**

**Commissioning:**

This holy night, may you feel God's presence with you.

May you know Christ, as sure and powerful as a light in the shadows.

And may the Spirit use you to be seeds of grace for a waiting world.

**Merry Christmas! Amen**

**Welcomers:** Mark Andrews, Mary Lloyd, Ralph Rainford