



**Melville United Church**

**300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9**

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**Team Ministry**

**Minister of Worship, Pastoral**

**Care & Outreach**

**Faith Formation & Youth**

**Ministry of Music Team**

**Office Administrator**

**Custodian**

**Chair of Church Council**

**Chair of Pastoral Care**

**& Prayer Chain Captain**

**Office hours**

**E-Mail**

**Web Site**

**Pastoral Care Numbers**

**Rev. Marion Loree**

**Martha Duncan**

**Suzanne Flewelling**

**Lynda Rivet**

**Robert Mitchell**

**Allan Hons**

**Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree**

**9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T.,T. & F.**

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**519-835-8605, 519-843-3841**

**Melville United Church  
Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 2020  
Celebration of Epiphany**

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

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today - Rev. Ruth Brown

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**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Joys, Concerns and 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**

**Words of Inspiration**

“In the deep snow of moons of winter, there are stories hovering around us. They are whispered by the voices of our ancestors, told in ancient tongues, told in the hope that we will hear them. Listen. In the drape of moonbeams across a canvas of snow, the lilt of birdsong, the crackle of a fire.... our ancestors summon us to the great abiding truth of stories: that simple stories, well told, are the heartbeat of the people....”

-Richard Wagamese, Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations

**Gathering Hymn:** (*remain seated*)

T'was in the moon of wintertime **VU 71**

**Time with the Younger Ones:**

**Hymn:** The First Nowell

**VU 91 (vs 1,2,3,4)**

**Children's Prayer:**

**Call to Worship:**

Arise! Shine! Your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

**The mystery of God's wonder and grace shines forth!  
The Light of the World is risen upon us!**

**Hymn:** Arise your light in come

**VU 79**

**Opening Prayer:**

God of wonder and mystery,

**God of star shine and sacred story,**

You never cease to surprise with joy.

**Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light; into the brokenness of sin and sorrow you bring forgiveness and healing; into the cold and snow of winter, you bring warmth. Into the hard heartedness of the world, you bring this star-shine epiphany; a tiny child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger.**

We praise you Holy One. Today, with the wise men of old, we behold you in your small extraordinary presence.

**May we too, joyfully, humbly adore you.**

**Hymn:** (*remain seated*)

In the Darkness Shines the Splendour

**VU 92**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 60:1-6 (New Revised Standard Version)

(The Ingathering of the Dispersed)

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
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.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
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.  
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.  
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 (New Revised Standard Version)

(The Visit of the Wise Men)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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." When King Herod heard

this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘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.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Our Sacred Story of Light and Love  
**Thanks Be to God!**

**Reader:** Rachel Brown

**Ministry of Music:** I am the Light of the World  
-Performed by Spirit Sings

**Message:** Let there be Light

**Hymn:** Let there be light **VU 679**

**Offering:** Shine, Jesus, Shine –performed by Spirit Sings

**\*Offering Hymn:** What can I give him **VU 55 (vs 4)**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**God of goodness and light, into the darkness shines your splendor. In gratitude we offer our gifts: Here is money, fulfilling our pledges to support the ministries of Melville United, in Jesus' name. Here is our commitment of time and talent in response to the call of your Spirit at work in us and others. Here is our Sabbath worship, honouring the mystery and wonder of your being with us, the promise of the heavens come on earth. All praise and thanksgiving to you, Emmanuel. Amen**

**Prayer Prelude:** Still, Still. Still **VU 47 (vs 1)**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Lord's Prayer:**

**Hymn:** Will you Come and see the light **VU 96**

**\*Blessing:**

Let there be Light!

**Light for all people and all places!**

At the start of the New Year, in the snow and cold of winter, let us follow the light of our faith in Jesus.

**With the grace of God and the courage of the Spirit, may our faithfulness in times of joy and challenge, make all the difference.**

For the sake of the world God so loves.

**Parting Song:** Go Tell it on the Mountain    **VU 43 (vs 3)**

**Postlude:**

**Prayer of the Week:** (Adapted from January 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 Opening Prayer by Rev. Grace Caines-Corkum)

Present God, in the cold air, the sounds of winter ring crisp and clear. May the good news of love and hope ring crisp and clear in my mind and heart this new day. May I hear the Spirit speak to me of what I can do and who I can be and where I can serve. Through the Spirit may I be prepared for what lies ahead this New Year. And may I greet each challenge with faith and courage and each joy with a grateful heart. Amen.

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

**Western Ontario Waterways:** Centennial: Stayner

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Mark Andrews, Mary Lloyd, Bob Zirk, Karen Smillie

**Counters:** Mary Lloyd and Karen Smillie