



November 27, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of the one whose coming we celebrate and anticipate, Jesus the Christ.

We gather in community today – November 27, 2022 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services. We encourage people to come out to worship in the sanctuary. There is ample room to socially distance, and you are welcome to wear masks or not as is comfortable for you.

For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

We gather in this new Christian year, in the season of Advent, marking the time of waiting for the arrival of the babe in the manger and the Second Coming of Christ. The colour for the season is blue, symbolizing hope.

Announcements

- **Mitten Tree** – We will once again be placing a Mitten Tree in the sanctuary and ask you to decorate it with mitts, hats, scarves and socks to keep folks in need warm during the winter.
- **“MID-DAY MUSIC AT MELVILLE” presented and performed by pianist BRAD HALLS**
Come and enjoy a musical respite when “Mid-Day Music at Melville” returns on **Wednesday, November 30 from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. at Melville United Church in Fergus**, when pianist Brad Halls will present a selection of songs written by Broadway and Hollywood composer Jerome Kern. Hear songs like “Look for the Silver Lining”, “Old Man River”, “I’m Old Fashioned”, “All the Things You Are” and many more.
- **Centre Wellington Singers Christmas Concert – Saturday, December 3rd at 3:00pm at Hope Springs United Church** (formerly Elora UC). Tickets can be obtained from choir members including Lillian Gohn and Millie Cumming. Adults \$15, children 12 and under \$5.
- We will be celebrating **White Gift Sunday** during Advent on **December 4th**. The Social Justice and Outreach Committee kindly asks you to make your white gift offering one of money, food, toiletries, or small items appropriate for teens.
- **Christmas Bake Sale Plus, at Melville - Sat. Dec. 17th 10 - 2pm** Cookies, fudge, squares, tarts, Christmas Pudding & Sauce, Gift Boxes, Christmas Decorations, and Our Famous Melville Meat Pies! If you are not a baker, please consider donating ingredients i.e.: flour, white/brown sugar, butter, raisins, pecans, walnuts, chocolate chips, mincemeat, cherries, etc.. Items should be left in the upstairs kitchen with a note on them. We “Thank you!”
- **Photo Directory** – If anyone has random photos of events that have gone on at Melville in the last 5 years, please see Lorna about them, as we do have a page or two in the photo directory for those. Thank You!

- **Memory Angels:** Our Memory Angels will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Sunday Nov 27 thru Advent and ending January 8/23. Those who have had Angels in the past, can renew your Angel with a minimum donation of \$5, by contacting Lorna Bevcar. Those who are new to this, can have a handmade paper Angel, with an inscription on the skirt, dedicating this Angel in memory of your loved one, from you, for a minimum donation of \$5. The Angels stay at Melville safely packed away, throughout the year. These Angels bring comfort and meaning to the Melville families throughout Advent, knowing we are remembering our loved ones.
- As more and more people find their dollar shrinking, and having to decide between rent and three meals a day, the demand for food bank assistance rises. We ask you to prayerfully consider if you are able to **support the Food Bank**, either with a donation of food, or financially. Items most needed as of Nov 24/22:

Pasta Sauce	Rice Side Dishes	Pasta Side Dishes	Canned Vegetables
Small Canned Soup	Canned Kidney Beans	Canned Six Bean Blend	Peanut Butter
Chunky Soup (Habitant)	Juice	Juice Boxes	Toilet Paper
Cookies	Canned Salmon		

The Food Bank is well stocked with:

Pasta	Tomato Soup	Canned Chickpeas or Lentils
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- **Save your Used Stamps from Incoming Mail:** The holiday season is coming and you'll be receiving cards, etc.. Cut off your used stamps, leaving a 1/2" border around them and give them to Marlene Tosh or put them in the Stamp Box on the shelf in the Cloak Room, where the Lift is on the main floor of the church. Marlene tidies them up and takes them to the Bible Society, to buy bibles. You can do this year-round!
- **Gifts with Vision: A Giving Catalogue from The United Church of Canada**
 - Give meaningful gifts that make a difference with [Gifts with Vision \(opens in a new tab\)](#)! Each year's gift catalogue gives a glimpse of the breadth of our Mission & Service ministries and programs.
 - *Gifts with Vision* has gift ideas to suit every interest, budget, and person. It's a great way to celebrate special occasions and honour loved ones!
 - The gift catalogue is updated online regularly, and is fully refreshed every fall. It is also distributed in print with *Broadview* magazine, and mailed to each pastoral charge.
 - **To order gifts, be inspired, or learn more, visit [GiftsWithVision.ca \(opens in a new tab\)](#) today!**

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

Land Acknowledgement *Peter Chynoweth, **Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022**, p.33. Used with permission.*

We acknowledge that this land on which we gather for worship is the traditional land of the people of Petun,
Haudenosaunee,
Anishinabewaki,
Mississaugas of the Credit,
Odawa and

Mississauga nations. We acknowledge that we live on this land as people who have agreed to share the care and use of this land as a result of treaties—the Simcoe Patent-Treaty 4, 1793 and the Haldimand Treaty, 1784—that outline the rights and responsibilities associated with our place in this land. May we be people who remember this with thanksgiving and respect.

Lighting the Advent Candles: The Advent of Hope by Wanda Winfield *Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022-2023* p.69. Used with permission.

Today is the Advent of hope.

We light this candle to bring hope into shadows of despair.

**We live in hope for the light at the end of the tunnel
and the end of the pandemic.**

We light this candle as our commitment
to bring healing into the world.

We are the hope for a better future.

We light this candle to reveal the Way of Jesus,
the Hope of the World.

The first purple candle is lit.

All Sing: Hope Is a Star VU7 verse 1

OneLicense #A-740237

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

Call to Worship: *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for November 27, 2022 (Advent 1 – A)* at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>, alt. Used with permission.

We may not know when,
but you are coming to us,
grace overflowing from your heart, O God.

We may not know who,
but your hope will be shared
by the least likely people, Friend of the poor.

We may not know how,
but your peace will transform
angry words into warm welcomes,
bitterness into cups of love, Spirit of Joy.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Adapted from a prayer by Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 33, p. 18. Copyright 2019.*

God of hopeful waiting,
Spirit of justice and truth,
Jesus, Light of the World,
as we close our eyes in prayer,
shutting out all the distractions around us,
we ask for a visible word,
a moving image that will speak to us
of renewal, and the possibility of change.
In our mind's eye,
we see a gleaming structure on a hilltop,

and we join the crowd of eager pilgrims
surging towards it,
serious, single-minded,
all looking, as we are, for something more,
something that is missing in the world below.
We pray that you would instill in us
The ability to wait,
yet to act now in the ways you will for us.
We pray as we come to worship this day
In the name of Jesus, our hope and our light. Amen.

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty VU315 OneLicense #A-740237

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth
and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Call to Reconciliation *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for November 27, 2022 (Advent 1 - A) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

We may not know the time,
but our every moment is held in God's hands.
We may not do and say what we should or could,
but God offers us words of forgiveness.
Join me as we pray together, saying,

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for November 27, 2022 (Advent 1 - A) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

**Sometimes it is hard for us to take you seriously, God of our lives.
With Covid variants still stalking us,
how can we think of traveling and being in crowds?**

**With bullies being given unlimited access on social media,
why shouldn't we respond with anger and vindictive slights?
With our hopes turned to ashes,
how can we become beacons of light for those in the shadows?**

**Forgive us, God of holy seasons, and have mercy.
In the days to come, may we discover the grace which has always been ours,
so we can share it with others.
May we taste the sweet goodness of your love, and feed those around us.
May we be filled with the peace of your Spirit,
so we may expect you to come in those we least expect,
in places which surprise us, in moments we overlook,
just as you did in Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

Silence is kept

Words of Assurance *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for November 27, 2022
(Advent 1 - A) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

Reach out and touch the kin-dom, for it is right next to you.
Breathe in, and feel the Spirit of peace and hope.
Trust and believe this good news: God is nearer than you might ever imagine.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!
**We can set aside our differences and embrace everyone,
we can seek peace for all in our lives, our neighborhoods, our world. Amen.**

Children's Ministry: The Advent Wreath

Candles are purple for preparation, looking inward, quiet
First purple candle is for hope
Second purple candle is for peace
Pink candle is for joy – this Sunday is a celebration in which we rejoice that Jesus the babe in the manger is coming, and Jesus Christ is coming again – so pink for rejoicing
Third purple candle is for love
White candle in the middle is for Jesus – the Christ Candle
Greenery from evergreens is for God who is ever-present

Prayer/Blessing

Hymn: A Candle Is Burning VU6

- 1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.
- 2 A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;

a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

- 3 A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.
- 4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.
- 5 We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

Prayer of Illumination *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®]
Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1. Copyright 2013.*

O God of our people
and Lord of every nation,
let your Word ring out from the mountains
and your Spirit shine forth in the earth,
so that all may hear your teaching
and all may do your will;
through Jesus Christ our peace. **Amen.**

Scripture: Romans 13:11-14 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*
Wake Up! The day is near

You know the time in which we are living.
It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep,
for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith.
The night is far spent; the day draws near.
So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.
Let us live honourably as in daylight,
not in carousing and drunkenness,
not in sexual excess and lust,
not in quarrelling and jealousy.
Rather, clothe yourselves with our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and make no provision for the desires of the night.

Ministry of Music "There Was a Child in Galilee (Dreaming Mary)" *words and music by Janet Gadeski, arranged by Patricia Wright played by Barry Rawn and Suzanne Flewelling*

1. There was a child in Galilee
who wandered wild along the sea.
A holy child, alone was she,
and they called her Dreaming Mary.

And she dreamed, rejoicing in her saviour;
she dreamed of justice for the poor.

2. One holy day an angel came
with voice of wind and eyes of flame.
He promised blessed would be her name
when he spoke to Dreaming Mary.
Then she spoke, rejoicing in her saviour.
She spoke of justice for the poor.
She spoke that kings oppressed no more
when she spoke, that Dreaming Mary.
3. And did she dream about a son?
And did he speak, the angel one?
We only know God's will was done
in the son of Dreaming Mary.
Then she prayed, rejoicing in her saviour.
She taught him justice for the poor.
She taught that kings oppressed no more
when she taught, that Dreaming Mary.

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

No one knows the hour

“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 days 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.

Prayer Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1*. Copyright 2013.

God of glory,
we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour.
Come to us now, in spirit and truth.
Take us up into your presence,
and make us ready for your reign of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share
find a response that is worthy of you,
most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

Reflection: Be Alert

When I was thinking about this week's scriptures, I recalled a bookmark I had as a young teenager: "Be alert...the world needs more lerts!" In my young teenager mind that was just about the most hilarious thing I could imagine. I pictured "lerts" being like something out of a Dr. Seuss book—a sort of bird, in brilliant red, walking around on long legs, with a long neck, bulgy eyes and a feathery crest. And oh, these many years later, I still think, when someone mentions about being alert, of the lerts of my bookmark, and chuckle to myself (often out loud would not be appropriate in a situation where I, and perhaps others, are being told to be alert.)

But the job description for being alert is about so much more than looking like a Dr. Seuss creature. It's much more a state of mind, a state of readiness, a state of action.

You might think to yourself, but this is Advent, the four weeks before Christmas and I want the hope, peace, joy and love to envelope us, like the light of the candle flame in a warm glow, as we move toward Christmas. This time in church, I just want to be a respite from the craziness of Christmas preparations, from the shopping, decorating, baking, food preparations, trying to fit in all the activities of concerts and plays, gatherings with family and friends, flitting to and fro on days not necessarily designed for their driving suitability.

The fact is, that Advent is a time for watching and waiting, but especially for action. I remember a letterboard on the sign of a church in St. John's near the university that said "Jesus is coming, look busy." Definitely cute, but not the message the gospel has for us. It's not about **looking** busy, it's about **being** busy.

In today's reading, Jesus is talking to the apostles, who have come to Jesus privately on the Mount of Olives to get some more information, as Jesus has just told them as they left the Temple precinct in Jerusalem, that the Temple will be destroyed. They want to know when this destruction will take place and how they will know of Jesus' coming and the end of the age. Jesus offers a number of frankly distressing signs of what is coming, and, in our reading today, tells the apostles they must be awake, watchful and ready.

I can imagine the apostles, their heads reeling, their thoughts racing as they consider what Jesus has

told them the end of the age will be like: false prophets, nations rising against nations, famines and earthquakes, persecutions, increased lawlessness, “the love of many will grow cold.” Flight will be necessary for the people of Judea, with no time to collect treasured belongings or even to get a coat. There will be great sufferings, darkened skies, falling stars. And in the midst of that, the admonition to be attentive and alert.

Well, that list of signs reads a bit like a newspaper from any day in the past while. You know the distressing and troubling events as well as I do. So we might feel like we need that warm, cozy candlelight and a few light-hearted social gatherings to take our minds off of stories of wars and famine, drought and flooding, illness and freak storms, shortages and overburdened systems.

And if we think we have it hard, imagine those who are unemployed, ill, hungry or in prison. Some of these concerns may not touch them so much, but perhaps only because there are others that are much more prevalent and pressing.

So what about this flickering flame on the candle we call hope? What is its message? Jesus tells the apostles that the Son of Humanity, Christ, is coming, and that Christ is coming at an unexpected hour, like a thief in the night, he says, but the gift is that he is coming. Jesus words, his promise, will not pass away like heaven and earth will pass away.

And Jesus speaks of the blessings for faithful watchfulness. Noah and his family were alert and ready to listen to God, following God’s call to build the ark and populate it. Others were too busy with their own pursuits. They lost sight of God and God’s call to live a faithful life. For those who listen, look, and follow God’s call, there is salvation.

And what is God’s call in this gospel? In the very next chapter Jesus tells the apostles it is to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick and imprisoned. In caring for the least of these who are members of Jesus’ family, the apostles are caring for Jesus himself.

And that is our calling too. We are exhorted to care for the least of these. We answer that call by giving to the food bank, by giving to a coat drive, by speaking to those who are lonely, by visiting those who are ill or in prison, by opening our hearts to those who are in need, by caring for this planet and God’s good creation. We don’t have to do it all. Jesus in his death and resurrection has brought new life and the presence of the Spirit. But by staying awake and alert, we can see the need, and the resources at hand, and bring them together in a sharing way, to care for the least of these. And that is bringing hope to some of the hopeless and despairing.

We can’t prevent the misfortunes and calamities, we are told that these will happen, but we can do our part, with Jesus’ help and encouragement, to share the load.

And while we share the load, we are expanding the candle glow of hope, so that we can experience the comfort and warmth of it, and so that we can share it with others.

Be alert or a lert, the world needs as many as possible!

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Mission Story: *Gifts with Vision*

Offering Invitation

Because God first loved us,
we are made to love one another.
For the sake of the life of the world, let us offer ourselves,
our time, and our possessions as signs of love.

Offering Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter

VU55 v.4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

Offering Prayer (in unison) *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 33, p. 17. Copyright 2019.*

**God of promise and fulfilment,
you have given us hope that how things are
is not how they always need to be.
You have given us a vision of this world
and human lives transformed for good.
We offer these gifts and ourselves
in the name of Jesus,
who lived and died and rose again
to make that vision real.
Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

The celebration of communion
is always a festival of friends,
a pulling together of our loves and our hopes,
our moments of agony and our glimpses of victory.
It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared,
that we can most fully be ourselves
and see others for who they truly are:
sons and daughters of the living God.
Here the common things of life—
bread and wine,
memories and dreams—
become holy, touched by God.
Here that which is earthly becomes divine,
and that which is human

becomes more than it has ever dreamed.

Hymn: As We Gather at Your Table

VU457

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- 1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

- 2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *adapted from a prayer by Thom M. Shuman, **Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy for November 27, 2022 (Advent 1 - A)** <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

May the Approaching God be with you.

And also with you.

In the days to come, People of God,
offer your hearts to the One who comes near.

**We will lay aside all that keeps us from
opening ourselves to God.**

Now is the time to sing praises to the One who loves us.

**We offer our thanksgiving to God,
as we find ourselves standing within the gates of Advent.**

You spoke of the days to come, Architect of life,
... with those who have forgotten to tell time,
we sing of your praises:

**Holy, holy, holy are You, God of the welcoming heart.
All creation sings of your great love.**

Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes when we least expect.
Hosanna in the highest!

In the days to come, God of life, may we be reminded of your holiness,
...
as we seek to be alert and awake, we would proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ died, seeking the good for all;
Christ was raised, putting on resurrection's love;
Christ will come, precisely when we least expect him.

On the night before Jesus was taken away to his death,
...
God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer:

We gather these and all our prayers,
and with Jesus,
we pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kin-dom come,
thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Preparation

As we come to this table,
we are reminded that this is not the table
of this community of faith;
nor is it the table of The United Church of Canada,
or any particular denomination.
This is the table of Jesus Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God.
We come to this table, and participate in this meal,
not because anything we have done entitles us to be here,
not because somehow we have earned a place;
this is not the table of the perfect,
but the table of the broken.
All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith
and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour, are welcome here.

Breaking and Distribution of the Elements

As we join together as community
and around this table
may we know that this is:
the body of Christ broken for us:
the blood of Christ shed for us.
May they nourish our bodies for the journey ahead
and quench our thirst for peace and justice.
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all things are now ready.

Jesus Christ - bread for the journey.
Jesus Christ - the wine of arrival.

Prayer After Communion

**We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness;
that wine poured out replenishes;
that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another
is gift and grace.
Amen.**

Hymn: Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples **VU507** **OneLicense #A-740237**

- 1 Today we all are called to be
 disciples of the Lord,
 to help to set the captive free,
 make ploughshare out of sword,
 to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
 make love and peace our fast,
 to serve the poor and homeless first,
 our ease and comfort last.

- 2 God made the world and at its birth
 ordained our human race
 to live as stewards of the earth,
 responding to God's grace.
 But we are vain and sadly proud,
 we sow not peace but strife,
 our discord spreads a deadly cloud
 that threatens all of life.

- 3 Pray justice may come rolling down
 as in a mighty stream,
 with righteousness in field and town
 to cleanse us and redeem.
 For God is longing to restore
 an earth where conflicts cease,
 a world that was created for

a harmony of peace.

- 4 May we in service to our God
 act out the living Word,
 and walk the road the saints have trod
 till all have seen and heard.
 As stewards of the earth may we
 give thanks in one accord
 to God who calls us all to be
 disciples of the Lord.

Commissioning *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy for November 27, 2022 (Advent 1 - A)*
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.

We may not know when, but we will go,
to bring God's grace to our broken world.

We may not know who, yet we will go,
**to receive Jesus' hope from those
we are uncomfortable being around.**

We may not know how, so we will go,
**to share the Spirit's peace
in the most unusual places.**

Change the Light

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.

I'm not going to put it out, just change it.

See how it is only in one place?

Change Light

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.

Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

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Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1. Copyright 2013.*

May the grace of Christ,
the love of God,
and the Spirit's joy surround you
as you walk in the light of God.

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word®
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Mighty God, you have woken me from sleep;
the night is gone, the day is here.
Enable me to put on Jesus Christ
and help me to live honorably this day,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

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God, my Saviour, you are even nearer now
than when I first learned to trust in you.
Help me to lay aside the burdens of the day
and rest in the grace of Jesus the Christ,
my strength and my salvation. Amen.