



December 11, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent – Christmas Cantata

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 – December 11, 2022 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person. 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.

We gather in this new Christian year, in the season of Advent, looking inward, pondering, and taking action to bring hope, peace, joy and love to the world as we await the arrival of the babe in the manger and the Second Coming of Christ. The colour for the season is blue, symbolizing hope.

Announcements

- **“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, December 14 and again on December 21 from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. at Melville United Church in Fergus, when pianist Brad Halls will present a selection of Christmas music – both traditional carols and popular seasonal favourites, with some stories of where this wonderful music has come from. We will have some lyric sheets available to encourage you to sing along with some of the selections.
- **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.
- You are invited on **the Journey to Bethlehem**, an interactive journey that begins inside the hall where visitors experience the busyness of the marketplace. As they then head outside for an exciting walk through the park, they will listen to the exciting news the angels will share and join the wiseman and shepherds in search of the King. The journey concludes back inside the hall to warm up with hot chocolate and cookies. This free event hosted **by the Alma Community** is for all and takes place on **December 15, 16 and 17th from 6:00 to 8:00PM at the Alma Community Centre and Wallace Cumming Park.**
- **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!
- **Memory Angels:** Our Memory Angels will be displayed in the Sanctuary through 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 Dec 8/22:

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 \(opens in a new tab\)](https://GiftsWithVision.ca) 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, (Hoe-day-no-show-nee)

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 by Wanda Winfield *Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022-2023* p.69. Used with permission.

The Advent of Joy

Two purple candles are lit.

Today is the Advent of joy.

We light this candle for the joy of the earth,
the oceans, the skies and all that lives.

**We live in a world that takes more
from the earth than it gives.**

We light this candle as our commitment
to the joy of living in respect with creation.

We are the caretakers of this earth, our home.

We light this candle in celebration of Jesus,
the Light of the World.

The pink candle is lit.

All sing: Hope Is a Star VU7 verse 3

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.
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: *Laura J. Turnbull, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p.27. Used with permission.*

The sights, sounds, smells, tastes and textures
of Advent are around us.

**The awe and mystery of this blessed season
remind us of the coming of the Holy One.**

Wonder fills our hearts
as we tell the timeless story.

With joy, we herald the good news!

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Laura Turnbull, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p.29. Used with permission.*

God of Advent Promise, joy is in the air.

**And in this moment, we hold on to the timeless truth
of Advent hope, peace, and joy.**

You break into our worship service with the astounding gift of delight.

God of Advent Promise, we long to receive Good News.

**As this time of blessed waiting is upon us,
we set our eyes on the cradle in the Bethlehem stable.**

And yet, we know we must not rush.

We linger where we are.

We take time to ponder.

We notice the small things.

We hear the quiet whispers.

In this way, we experience Emmanuel!

**God of Advent Promise, may this third Sunday in Advent
be a day of rich blessings and deep joy.**

We pray in the name of the One

who brought joy into a troubled world, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

“Bethlehem Joy” – by Stan Pethel sung by Melville United Choir accompanied by Colleen Weber and Linda Mae Ogilvie

Narration I – the joy of Bethlehem we’ve come to celebrate today began with the words of Isaiah: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel,” which means God Godself is with us.

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU1 v. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. R

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. R

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. R

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace. R

Narration II – Months before her baby was born, there was joy in the heart of a young girl named Mary when an angel announced to her that she would have a son—and that son would be the Son of God.

“My Heart Rejoices” – by Stan Pethel sung by Melville United Choir with solo by Sarah Schmidt-McQuillan accompanied by Colleen Weber

Children’s Ministry: Patience

Reading James 5:7-10, talking about patience

Patience and Prayer

⁷ Be patient, then, my friends, until Jesus the Christ comes. See how patient farmers are as they wait for their land to produce precious crops. They wait patiently for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Keep your hopes high, for the day of the Lord's coming is near.

⁹ Do not complain against one another, my friends, so that God will not judge you. The Judge is near, ready to appear. ¹⁰ My friends, remember the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Take them as examples of patient endurance under suffering.

Prayer/Blessing

“Make Room” – by Matt Maher and John Mark Hall sung by Spirit Sings accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling, Barry Rawn and Rene Crespo

Narration III - In the quiet solitude of a little town called Bethlehem, without fanfare, God’s son was born. And there was joy—in a place where perhaps no one would expect it.

“Wondrous Star, Light of God” – by Stan Pethel sung by Melville United Choir accompanied by Colleen Weber and Rene Crespo

Narration IV – There was joy in the hearts of some stargazers, too, who, upon seeing what they perceived to be a new star in the sky as a sign of the long awaited Messiah, took off. Three of them? Probably more! On camels? Who knows! Nevertheless, they began a journey in search of the newborn king.

“My Gift for Him” – by Stan Pethel sung by Melville Men’s Chorus accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling and Rene Crespo

Joys and Concerns

Preparation for Prayer

Let us practice the art of Praying with our Eyes Wide Open, that in seeing the world and those within it we are called to tend we may be *opening the eyes of our hearts to all in need around us* (Lamont Koerner '81 MDiv God Pause for Thursday, September 16, 2021 from Luther Seminary):

Prayers of the People

You keep us waiting.
You, the God of all time,
want us to wait
for the right time in which to discover
who we are, where we must go,
who will be with us, and what we must do.
Thank you . . . for the waiting time.

You keep us looking.
You, the God of all space,
want us to look in all the right and wrong places
for signs of hope,
for people who are hopeless,
for visions of a better world which will appear
among the disappointments of the world we know.
Thank you . . . for the looking time.

You keep us loving.
You, the God whose name is love,
want us to be like you—
to love the loveless and the unlovely and the unloveable;
to love without jealousy or design or threat;
and, most difficult of all,
to love ourselves.
Thank you . . . for the loving time.

And in all this,
you keep us.
Through hard questions with no easy answers;
through failing where we hoped to succeed
and making an impact when we felt we were useless;
through the patience and the dreams and the love of others;
and through Jesus Christ and his spirit,
you keep us.
Thank you . . . for the keeping time,
and for now,
and for ever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer 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.

Narration V – The joy of Bethlehem was found, not in Bethlehem itself, but in the awesome awareness of Mary and Joseph, of a small band of shepherds, and of others who had visited, that the presence of God had invaded that little town; and in God's presence, there is always joy for all who believe in him

"It's Still the Greatest Story Ever Told" – words by Gloria Gaither Music by William J. Gaither and J.D. Miller arranged by Camp Kirkland sung by Melville Men's Chorus accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling and Rene Crespo

Minute for Mission: Anti-Racism App Developed by Young Adults Set to Launch



Credit: Jonisha Lewinson

The murder of George Floyd had a profound affect on Jonisha Lewinson, a college student and member of North Bramalea United Church. "Although I had experienced racism, I hadn't been interested in exploring it, but after what happened to George Floyd, I wanted to get involved," she says. "I decided I wanted to not just have a quiet voice but an active voice in making information about anti-racism available to people."

Shortly after she made that internal commitment, a friend told Lewison that the United Church was inviting young people to apply to the Young Black Scholarship Program project, part of the church's commitment to the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent. Each of the participants was tasked to research and report on various aspects of Black experiences in Canadian churches and received a scholarship supported through your Mission & Service gifts for their work.

From there, the idea for an app-based curriculum that would inspire teens ages 12–18 to become anti-racist was born.

Jonisha landed the contract to develop the curriculum for the app and is currently one of four young adults leading the project. Through the app, teens learn about topics like the history of racism in Canada, White privilege, and how to get involved in anti-racism work. Each of the units includes audio, video, and chat features. Called ar4yt (short for “Anti-Racism for Youth Training”), the app is set to launch January 1, 2023, and will be freely available on Google Play and the App Store.

“I’ve never written a curriculum before, so there was a lot of research. It was a big learning experience not just in creating the curriculum but learning about how racism affects different people in Canada other than myself,” reflects Jonisha.

What does she hope young people will take from the experience with the app?

“Part of dismantling racism means having conversations on a smaller scale with friends and family. That means just as much as being part of huge organizations. I hope that young people engaging with the app realize that making change is not as difficult as it seems,” she says.

Your generosity through [Mission & Service](#) supports the leadership of young adults like Jonisha who are actively using their talent and skill to change our world for the better. Thank you!

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

As a farmer plants the seeds
and waits for the rains to come,
let us entrust our gifts to the Lord
as we await the coming of God’s reign.

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) *Laura J. Turnbull, **Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023**, p.31. Used with permission.*

**Joy-full God,
We offer not only financial gifts,
But our commitment to serve in your name.
We long to use our skills and abilities in ways that glorify you.
We seek to share words that tell the Good News.
We dedicate to you the fullness of who we are,
As we present our offering.
Praise be to you, Ever-Gracious God.
Amen.**

Narration VI – The joy of Bethlehem! We celebrate, not a baby, but a loving God who sent his son to bring joy to our world. And for that great gift we offer our adoration, our service, and our praise.

“Glory (Let There Be Peace)” – by Chris Stevens, Matt Maher and Rachel Taylor-Popadic sung by Spirit Sings accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling and Rene Crespo, joined for last two choruses by Melville United Choir, Sarah Schmidt-McQuillan and Melville Men’s Chorus and congregation

Singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let there be peace
Singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let it start with me
Let there be peace, let it start with me

Singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let there be peace
Singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let it start with me
Let there be peace, let it start with me

Commissioning and Blessing *David Sparks, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p.32-33. Used with permission.*

It is Advent. Prepare for the coming of Jesus.

We will listen quietly and regularly for God’s word for us.

We will be aware of the needs within the circle of our community.

We will support our friends, who may be stressed, anxious, or grieving.

We will share in the Advent life of our faith community.

We will offer help to those whose faces and names we may never know.

We will give thanks continually for God’s supreme gift of the Christ child.

May God’s blessing be yours in this journey, as Christmas comes near. Amen.

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2. Copyright 2013.*

Holy God, at the dawning of this day
new life blossoms like the crocus,
and fresh promise wells up like a spring.
As I go forth in your presence,
confirm my resolve to worship you,
strengthen my hands to serve your people,
and keep me always in your holy way;
through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Isa. 35:4–6

Household Prayer: Evening *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®**
Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2. Copyright 2013.*

Mighty God, my soul rejoices
at the great things you have done this day—
giving daily bread for my hunger,
showing endless mercy for my sin.
As you have blessed my ancestors
bless and keep me this night;
in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Luke 1:46–55