



January 8, 2023

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church

January 8, 2023

Baptism of our Lord

Presiding today - Rev. Ruth Brown

Welcome

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, Companion on the way.

We gather in community today – Sunday January 8th 2023, 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. Masking and hand sanitizing are all optional and there is ample space for people to maintain social distancing if you feel more comfortable doing so. For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

Announcements

- Come and enjoy a musical break in your busy day when “*Mid-Day Music at Melville*” returns on Wednesday, January 11 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 the Hollywood and Broadway composer Jule Styne. These classic songs include *Time After Time, I’ve Heard that Song Before, Three Coins in the Fountain, Just in Time, People* and several more. Admission to the performance is free, but free-will donation to Melville to keep the lights on and the piano tuned are welcomed.
- 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. Food bank use is up 35% over the last three years. The food bank has also calculated that a basket of food and goods that cost \$39.85 in 2021 now costs \$50.83, a 27.55% increase in one year. The Food Bank is asking for your financial support as they come to the end of the year.
- **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!**

- **Melville council has commissioned a Halo study in conjunction with the Trinity Centres Foundation.** This study will look to anchor Melville in Centre Wellington and determine our value to the community, as event and program space, volunteer time and effort and community well being. This will serve as a snapshot of the value Melville brings to the community in terms we can share with local governments, charitable organizations and current partners. This will serve as the foundation for further efforts to make Melville a sustainable, energetic, and integral part of Centre Wellington. Please ask a council member if you have any questions.

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 First Nation, 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 No. 4 and the Haldimand Treaty, that outlined the rights and responsibilities associated with our place in this land.

May we be people who remember this with thanksgiving and respect.

Invitation to Worship

We gather together this morning, open to the Spirit descending upon us like gently falling snow, how peaceful and beautiful it is, this moment to breathe, this moment of Sabbath rest, this moment to praise and remember together.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Let us remember the ancient sacred words of our ancestors in faith:

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness, not even the darkness of death, has overcome it.

Praise be to Christ our light and our salvation.

Gathering Prayer:

On the threshold of a New Year, the glorious moments of our sacred Christmas time seem to quickly recede and the worries and stuff of life seem to be the only gifts that remain.

In the bleak mid winter strong winds and heavy snow on towering pines still bend us low to breaking, as if nothing has changed, nothing at all.

So help us, Creator God. Help us, Beloved Jesus. Help us, Sacred Spirit.

Help us to keep on remembering through the snow and ice and cold and grey, like the abiding presence of our life giving sun, even in winter's dark, is your life giving Spirit, ever present enough to guide and encourage and bless our hearts and hands and voices.

Help us to keep on remembering through all times, you are ever near enough to fulfill all righteousness through us and others, for sake of all the world.

May this remembering, change everything.

Amen

Hymn: God, Whose Almighty Word VU 313

- 1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.
- 2 Jesus, who came to bring
on your redeeming wing, healing and sight,
health to the troubled mind, sight to the Spirit-blind,
O now to humankind let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
lifegiving, holy dove, speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place let there be light.
- 4 Blessed and holy three,
glorious trinity, wisdom, love, might,
boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide, let there be light.

Children's Ministry: The Baptism of Jesus

Hymn: I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry VU 644

- 1 I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
- 2 I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.
- 3 When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
- 4 If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.
- 5 In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
- 6 When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,

I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

- 7 I was there to hear your borbng cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

Scripture: Isaiah 42: 1-9 (NRSV)

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Scripture: Matthew 3: 13-17 (NRSV)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

The Word of Love and Life
Thanks be to God

Ministry of Music

Sermon: The Baptism of Jesus and Fulfilling all Righteousness

Hymn: O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word VU 84

- 1 O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,
eternal love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.

- 2 Our bartered, busy lives burn dim,
too tired to care, too numb to feel.
Come, shine upon our shadowed world:
your radiance bathes with power to heal.

- 3 Your glory shone at Jordan's stream,
the font where we were born anew.
Attune your church to know you near;
illumine all we say and do.

- 4 O Light of Nations, fill the earth;
our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,
as stars once led the way to you.

Prayers of the people and the Prayer of Jesus

Minute for mission

Offering Invitation

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All creation teems with the abundance of God's provision:
mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars,
creeping things and flying birds!
Our own lives bear witness to the abundance of
God's love and mercy, for God has lifted us up and carried us in our need.
In joyful praise, we offer to God a portion of all we have received.

Offering Hymn: Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow VU 541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Offering Prayer

Gracious God in gratitude and humility we offer these gifts today, to serve your cause and to make tangible your love in the world. Guide and enlighten us as we share these gifts and the gift of our life together with others, in Jesus name. Amen.

Hymn: I Have Called You By Your Name MV 161

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen;
you are mine.

2. I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

3. I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,
then let it go.

4. I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people
they are mine.

Benediction

Postlude

Household Prayer

Holy One, with gentle hands you receive my prayers, with patient eyes you search out my spirit, with quiet words you offer me peace, and with your infinite heart you receive my ordinary living. Through the course of this day, help me to remember the gift of my Baptism, how through the very ordinary things of life, like water, you reveal your extraordinary presence blessing and guiding, redeeming and restoring. Help me to cherish this vision of our world made right. Help me to honour it and hold it before me as I step this way and that today, that it might colour my words and my deeds.

To that end, may mercy be my path, may peace calm my anxious spirit, may love heal my heart and may your grace light my way. Amen