



December 31, 2023

Melville United Church

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Team Ministry

Minister of Pastoral Care

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

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Martha Duncan

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Lynda Rivet

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

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Melville United Church
Sunday, December 31st, 2023
1st Sunday after Christmas

Presiding: Rev. Ruth Brown,
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber

Welcome

Announcements:

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, welcome! Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the parlour after the service.

- There is **no Kids' Church today**. There are books and colouring materials at the front, for children. Kids' Church **will resume January 7**. Happy New Year!
- **Free Electric Stove** available. It's a fully functional electric stove from our main kitchen. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact the office or Barry Rawn at brawn@cogeco.ca to arrange pickup.
- **UCW meat pies** are available now. \$5 each. Buy after church or contact Marg 519-843-3274 OR margfrayne@hotmail.com
- **Rides needed for seniors:** Can you help? Rides to Wed Piano Concert (Noon - 1pm), Friday Morning Coffee (10 - 11am), and Sunday Service (11am - Noon). Please speak to Lorna Bevcar
- **Church envelopes** are ready for pickup at the back of the church. If you don't see your envelopes or would like some, please contact Lynda in the office secretary@melvilleunited.com or 519-843-1781
- The music series "**Mid-Day Music at Melville**" presented by pianist Brad Halls will take a two-week break over Christmas and New Year's, and our regular Broadway repertoire will return on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.
- **Friday or Sunday Coffee Time** – We encourage people to sign up to host either a Friday or a Sunday Coffee Time. It is not difficult! We'd be pleased to show you how. Sign-up sheets are at the Parlour Door. Please speak to Lorna Bevcar or Marg Frayne.
- Thank you for your donations to the **Food Bank** there is an **ongoing need** of nonperishables, toiletries, or a gift card. Baskets are in the sanctuary.
- **Volunteer Tutors Needed!** Join the Reading Rocks program by the Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County. Support children's reading skills one-on-one. Program runs **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm**, at JD Hogarth Public School from **Feb 5th to Apr 10th**. Training provided. Contact Lynda at LDAWC@gmail.com or apply at <https://form.jotform.com/203084991501251>

Land Acknowledgement

Let us take time to acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial.

God, help us to be thankful, and to become better neighbours and stewards that we might continue to honour these lands.

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens!

Praise God in the heights and the depths!

Praise God, all creatures of earth and sky!

Praise God, young and old, together!

Let us praise the Lord and worship God's holy name!

Opening hymn: God of Life VU 528

- 1 God of life, in Christ you lead us,
guiding us along the way.
In our past, through joys and sorrows,
you have been our strength and stay.
Keep us faithful, true disciples,
in our learning and our praise,
celebrating past and present, consecrating future days.

- 2 God of words and Word Incarnate,
words that challenge and embrace,
grant us boldness in our speaking,
while we know your loving grace.
Give us words both clear and winsome,
loving hearts and listening ears,
celebrating past and present, consecrating future years.

- 3 God of music, psalms and anthems,
help us sing your faith anew:
melodies expanding worship,
harmonies enriching too.
May our lives be hymns in action,
tuned to Christ in note and rhyme,
celebrating past and present, consecrating future time.

- 4 God of days and years and eons,
still you call as in the past.
Work undone demands our labour;
justice yearns for peace at last.
Yours the vision and the challenge;
ours the mission and the praise,
celebrating past and present, consecrating future days.

Opening Prayer:

**God of grace and glory, we praise you from the heights and from the depths;
from the courts of power and from the sidewalks of our lives. Your splendour shines from
a manger, where the Light of the World was born for us.**

In fragile flesh, you are revealed to us face to face reaching out to claim our love. And so we gather with those who have glimpsed that love to rejoice that you have claimed us in Christ. We offer you our praise, Creator, Son, and Spirit; Source of life, Glorious light, and Wisdom of the ages.

Prayer of Confession:

God of our lives, we know you are with us through thick and thin, in times of great joy and at moments of disappointment. Yet we can feel let down when the joy of Christmas Day has passed. Our hope gets folded away with the gift wrap, our energy for the future feels a bit tattered. Forgive us when our faithfulness flickers like a candle burning down.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news of the Gospel: Jesus Christ is our light and our salvation. In him we are made new. Let us give thanks to God, and be at peace with ourselves and with one another.

Ministry of Music: Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne *by Timothy Matthews, arranged by Albin C. Whitworth*

Scripture: Galatians 4: 4-7 (NRSV)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

Sermon: We Waited for The Gift

Hymn: Be Still, My Soul VU 652

- 1 Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend
through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.
- 2 Be still, my soul, your God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul, life's tempests still obey
the voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.
- 3 Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever in God's peace;
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.

Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays
 - Jim Nevett celebrated on Fri Dec 29th

Offering Hymn: What Can I Do MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. (x2)

Offering Prayer

Parting Song: The First Nowell VU 91

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.
- 2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. R
- 3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. R
- 4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. R
- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. R

- 6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. R

Postlude: Auld Lang Syne *arranged by J. Biegel*

Worship Schedule

January 7 th	1 st Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
January 14 th	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Tom Watson
January 21 st	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Marion Loree
January 28 th	4 th Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Felicia Urbanski