



January 7, 2023

Melville United Church

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

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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

Rev. Marion Loree 519-835-8605

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, January 7, 2024
1st Sunday after Epiphany

Presiding: Rev. Jeff Hawkins
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.

- **Youth Group** (grade 6 and up) tonight **Jan. 7th 6:30-8:00pm** here at Melville
- **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 returns on **Wednesday, January 10th from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m.** here at Melville. Brad will return to his musical journey through the last 100 years of the Broadway musical. On January 10, we will enjoy selections from classic musicals from 1948 and 1949, including *Kiss Me Kate*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *South Pacific* and others. Hit songs from those productions include *Some Enchanted Evening*, *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend*, *So in Love*, *A Wonderful Guy* and many more. There is no admission cost for these concerts, but a voluntary donation to Melville United Church to help keep the heat on and the piano tuned is always appreciated.
- **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 LDAWOC@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:

Arise, shine: for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Lift up your eyes and look around!

We shall see and be radiant; our hearts shall rejoice.

For the Lord will be our everlasting light and our glory!

And so we worship God in humble expectation.

Opening Hymn: As With Gladness Men of Old VU 81

- 1 As with gladness men of old
 did the guiding star behold,
 as with joy they hailed its light,
 leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore your splendour see.

- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
 to that lowly manger bed,
 there to bend the knee before
 Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with eager pace
ever seek your throne of grace.

- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
 at that manger crude and bare,
 so may we with holy joy,
 pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

- 4 Holy Jesus, every day
 keep us in the narrow way;
 and, when earthly things are past,
 bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide.

- 5 In the heavenly country bright
 none shall need created light;

you its light, its joy, its crown,
you its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
hallelujah to our King.

Opening Prayer (in unison):

God of light and life, we praise you for the amazing depth of your creation. We praise you for the wonders of the earth around us and for the Word made flesh in the child born in Bethlehem. Open our hearts and minds in this time of worship. Just as you led the magi by the star, lead us by your Spirit beyond the limits of this world's expectations, to the life where you make all things new through Christ, our Morning Star. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

God of mercy and loving-kindness, you sent Christ among us to be the light of the world and reveal your love to all people. Yet our sins hide the brightness of your light that should shine through us. Forgive us for wasting our gifts, ignoring cries for justice, and harming the earth you love. In your mercy, cleanse us and make us new.

Assurance of Pardon

Be assured of God's love and forgiveness that shine for us in Christ Jesus.

As a new year unfolds, make a new beginning with God and with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: We Three Kings by John H. Hopkins arranged by Albin C. Whitworth

Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-12 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ '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.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon: Not Over Yet, 359 Days To Go

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 and Lord's Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Offering Hymn: What Can I Do? MV 191

Offering Prayer

Parting Song: Jesus shall Reign VU 330

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

- 3 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
and prisoners leap to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 4 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

Postlude:

Welcomers: Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Karen Smillie and Chris Hopewell

Worship Schedule

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