



**December 1, 2024**

Melville United Church

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

Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M2W7

519-843-1781

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

Ann Ward

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Lynda Rivet

Suzanne Flewelling

Allan Hons

Alison Rainford 519-843-3841

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

[secretary@melvilleunited.com](mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com)

[www.melvilleunited.com](http://www.melvilleunited.com)

Melville United Church

December 1, 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

---

*Presiding: Rev. Jeff Hawkins*

*Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber*

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Lighting of Advent Candle (Advent 1)**

Our Advent journey has begun. We prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth.

**We come to embrace the good news of the Light of the World.**

It is within the hidden mysteries of life we discover vulnerability.

Within the dancing shadows cast by a flickering candle flame we discover the promise of hope and of new possibilities.

**We come to be transformed despite and because of our weakness.**

We light a candle reminding us of the way of hope.

*(The first Advent candle is lit.)*

**Sung Response: "A Candle is Burning" verse 1 (VU 6)**

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.

Let us join as one community of faith in prayer:

**We come to worship with the image of flickering light seared in our minds. It dances as your Spirit dances within our hearts, gracious God, drumming the rhythm of hope that enlivens us all. As you bless us with the Way of Jesus, may we invite others to Christ's dance of transformation. Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

Advent is a time for waiting.

**We wait for God, who appears like a tender branch growing from a stump.**

Advent is a time for hoping.

**We wait for God, who comes with justice and righteousness.**

Advent is a time to worship.

**We wait for God, praising the One who comes to fulfil promises.**

**Opening Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VU 2**

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free:  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,

joy of every longing heart.

- 3 Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

### **Opening Prayer**

**God of love, you come to your people to dwell with us. You come with power to transform all things. You come, and your truth breaks into our lives. Your coming is our hope, and so, we offer you our praise and prayers in gratitude. Come into our lives again, O God, and show us how to hope in the face of all that is discouraging, for we gather in the name of Hope made flesh, Jesus Christ, your promise and our desire. Amen**

### **Children's Time**

**Ministry of Music: Advent Prayer (Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel) arranged by Hal H. Hopson sung by the Melville Choir**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Surprising God, forgive our sleepiness in the presence of your splendour. Forgive us our silence when we ought to have spoken up and our carelessness with your world and each other. Awaken us to your hopeful presence so we may watch and wait for you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The One who comes with justice also comes with mercy. God offers you forgiveness today, in the hope you will receive it gladly. Do not be afraid but rejoice in the God who comes to us.

### **Scripture: Luke 21: 29-36**

*The Lesson of the Fig Tree*

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

*Exhortation to Watch*

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you

may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

### **Sermon: Watching Ourselves**

#### **Hymn: VU 20 On Jordan's Bank**

- 1 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lamb is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of Kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
and let each heart prepare a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.
- 3 In you, we find abundant life,  
our refuge in the midst of strife;  
without your grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and help us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine,  
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won;  
and praise to God whom we adore,  
with Holy Spirit evermore.

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

#### **Sharing our Joys and Concerns**

- **Birthdays**
  - Marg Frayne celebrates on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>
- **Anniversaries**
  - Vivian & Havey Andrews celebrates on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Prayers and Lord's Prayer**

#### **Offering Hymn 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: Hark the Glad Sound VU 29**

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

**Postlude: Come, Thou Redeemer, of the Earth** *arranged by David Willcocks*

**Welcomers:** Barb Gregory, John Cuming

**Counters:** Chris Hopewell, Phil Brown

**Worship Schedule**

December 8	White Gift Sunday	Anne Ward & Rev Tom Watson
December 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Rev. Tom Watson
December 22	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
December 29	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas	Rev. Jeff Hawkins