



December 29, 2024

Melville United Church

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Ministry of Music Team
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Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain
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Melville United Church
December 29, 2024
1st Sunday after Christmas

Presiding: Rev. Jeff Hawkins
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber
Guest Musician: Peter Hummel

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

Praise the Lord from the heavens and in the heights;

Praise God, sun and moon!

God's name alone is exalted;

God is above the earth and heaven.

Young and old together, all creatures great and small,

Let us praise God's holy name, now and evermore!

Opening Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.
- 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts

the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Opening Prayer:

By your word that created all things and the love that moves the sun and moon and stars you created us; you have made us for yourself, and we are yours, and our hearts are restless until they come to rest in you. In this time of worship, receive our prayers and our praises as we honour your gifts of Light and Love which shine upon us through Jesus Christ this day and every day by your grace. Amen

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: Little Drummer Boy *performed by Peter Hummel*

Prayer of Confession:

God of our lives and the time in which we live, we confess that we prefer our fantasy to your truth, and our plans to your purposes for us and the world.

We shrink from costly discipleship and we seek cheap grace. Forgive our fleeting enthusiasms and our shallow commitments, and guide us always so that we might walk in your way and follow the way of your son now and always; through the steadfast grace of Christ, Amen

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us. We are forgiven and set free to begin again. Let us forgive one another just as God has forgiven us. May the peace of Christ be with us all.

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect

harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Sermon: A New Year/A New Start

Hymn: It came Upon the Midnight Clear VU 44

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold,
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

- 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
to hear the angels sing.

- 4 For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays

- Jim Nevett celebrates on Dec. 29th

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Offering Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter VU 55 (verse 4)

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

Yet what I can I give him – give him my heart.

Offering Prayer

Parting Song: 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.

Postlude: Auld Lang Syne

Welcomers: Vivian and Havey Andrews

Counters: Karen Smillie, Kaillie Rawn

Worship Schedule

January 5	Epiphany Sunday	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
January 12	The Baptism of the Lord	Rev. Felicia Urbanski

