



**Celebrating
179 Years**



January 5, 2025

Melville United Church

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Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

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Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

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Melville United Church

January 5, 2025

Presiding: Rev. Jeff Hawkins

Ministry of Music: Collee Weber

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

Arise, shine, for your light has come

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

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:

God of power and might, God of grace and mercy, heaven and earth are full of your glory. You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ. During this time worship, surprise us with your grace once again, that we, with the whole Church and your precious creation, may praise and honour your holy name, O God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: Bethlehem Light based on tune: Fare Thee Well, a traditional Irish melody.
Arranged by Joseph M. Martin, flute solo by Linda-Mae Ogilvie

Prayer of Confession:

God of goodness and guidance, In Christ you sent us light to live by, yet we seek shadows in which to hide. You are generous with your love, but we reject neighbors and fear strangers who differ from us. Remake us in the image of your Son with your mercy, and teach us how to follow him in the year ahead.

Assurance of Pardon

Here is the good news of the Gospel! In Christ we find God's acceptance. Let us give thanks to God for this gift, and be at peace with ourselves and with one another.

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Magi

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, 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." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they

saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon: Do We Still Seek Him?

Hymn: 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

Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Liz Moore celebrates on Jan. 6th
- **Condolences**
 - We extend our deepest condolences to the family of George Warden who passed away on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

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: In the Darkness Shines the Splendour VU 92

- 1 In the darkness shines the splendour
of the Word who took our flesh,
welcoming, in love's surrender,
death's dark shadow at his crèche.
Bearing every human story,
Word made flesh reveals his glory.
- 2 Light of nations, veiled in history,
born of woman's flesh and blood,
calling to the depths of mystery
restless hearts that seek the good.
Healing every human story,
Word made flesh reveals his glory.
- 3 Broken bread, sustaining us in sorrow,
wine poured out to toast our joy;
exodus and new tomorrow,
life's full promise to enjoy!
Gladdening every human story,
Word made flesh reveals his glory.
- 4 All God's people, sing in jubilation
of the birth that sets us free,
telling of the revelation:
Jesus, God's epiphany.
Celebrate the human story!
Word made flesh reveals our glory.

Postlude

Welcomers: Linda and Norm Porritt

Counters: Mary Lloyd, David Gohn

Worship Schedule

January 12

The Baptism of the Lord

Rev. Felicia Urbanski