



**November 16, 2025**

Melville United Church  
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**Melville United Church**  
**Nov. 16, 2025**  
**The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

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*Presiding: Rev. Linda Butler*  
*Ministry of Music: Suzanne Flewelling*

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements:**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

One: We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ.  
A light which cannot be held back by distance.

**All: A light which shines in each one of us, no matter who or where we are.**

**Call to Worship** (*based on Psalm of the day, Psalm 98 from **Psalms for Praying***)

One: O sing to the Beloved a new song,  
for Love has done marvelous things!

**All: We are set free through Love's forgiveness and truth.**

One: Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth;  
break forth into grateful song and sing praises!

**All: Let the voices of all people blend in harmony,  
in unison let the people magnify the Beloved!**

One: Let the waters clap their hands;  
let the hills ring out with joy  
before the Beloved, who radiates love to all the earth.

**Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You VU 232**

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,  
God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
sound their praise eternally.
- 3 You are giving and forgiving,

ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing,  
let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

- 4 Mortals join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Hymn: Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New MV 115**

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)  
I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.  
Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)  
I make all things new,  
my promises true,  
for I am Christ the way.

*Repeat*

#### **Children's Time: The Wing by Ray Buckley**

#### **Music Ministry: These Walls by Heather Sorenson**

#### **Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25 reader: Alison Rainford**

- <sup>17</sup> "See, I will create  
new heavens and a new earth.  
The former things will not be remembered,  
nor will they come to mind.  
<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever  
in what I will create,  
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight  
and its people a joy.  
<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice over Jerusalem  
and take delight in my people;  
the sound of weeping and of crying  
will be heard in it no more.  
<sup>20</sup> "Never again will there be in it  
an infant who lives but a few days,  
or an old man who does not live out his years;

the one who dies at a hundred  
 will be thought a mere child;  
 the one who fails to reach<sup>[a]</sup> a hundred  
 will be considered accursed.  
<sup>21</sup> They will build houses and dwell in them;  
 they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
<sup>22</sup> No longer will they build houses and others live in them,  
 or plant and others eat.  
 For as the days of a tree,  
 so will be the days of my people;  
 my chosen ones will long enjoy  
 the work of their hands.  
<sup>23</sup> They will not labor in vain,  
 nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;  
 for they will be a people blessed by the Lord,  
 they and their descendants with them.  
<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer;  
 while they are still speaking I will hear.  
<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb will feed together,  
 and the lion will eat straw like the ox,  
 and dust will be the serpent's food.  
 They will neither harm nor destroy  
 on all my holy mountain,"  
 says the Lord.

### **Sermon: Transformation Is Possible**

#### **Hymn: My Life Flows On VU 716**

- 1        My life flows on in endless song,  
           above earth's lamentation.  
       I hear the sweet, though far off hymn  
           that hails a new creation.  
       Through all the tumult and the strife,  
           I hear the music ringing:  
       It finds an echo in my soul -  
           how can I keep from singing?
  
- 2        What though my joys and comforts die?  
           My Saviour still is living.  
       What though the shadows gather 'round?  
           A new song Christ is giving.  
       No storm can shake my inmost calm,  
           while to that Rock I'm clinging:  
       since Love commands both heaven and earth,  
           how can I keep from singing?
  
- 3        When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,  
           and hear their death knells ringing:  
       when friends rejoice both far and near,

how can I keep from singing?  
In prison cell and dungeon vile  
our thoughts to them are winging:  
when friends by shame are undefiled,  
how can I keep from singing?

4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;  
I see the blue above it;  
and day by day this pathway smooths,  
since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing:  
all things are mine since I am Christ's -  
how can I keep from singing?

### **Minute for Mission: Mission Story - Martha Duncan**

#### **Joys / Concerns**

- **Birthdays**
  - Fred Martin celebrates on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Heather Howes celebrates on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>

#### **Prayers of the People:**

##### **The Lord's prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

#### **Offertory invitation**

#### **Offertory Song: Take, O Take Me as I Am MV 85**

Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me. *Repeat*

#### **Offertory Prayer**

#### **Hymn: O Day of Peace VU 682**

1 O day of peace that dimly shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world  
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

2      Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
a little child shall lead them all.  
        Then enemies shall learn to love,  
        all creatures find their true accord;  
        the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
        for all the earth shall know the Lord.

**Benediction and Commissioning**

**All:      Touched by the presence of God,  
            may we be a healing presence in the world.  
            Upheld by the Spirit of Christ,  
            may we stand firm for all that is just and true.**

One:    And may the love of God surround us,  
         the Holy Spirit keep us,  
         and the grace of Christ attend us,  
         now and always.

**All:      Amen.**

**Postlude: Could It Be That God Is Singing**

**Welcomers:** Barb Gregory, John Cuming

**Counters:** David Gohn, Chris Hopewell

**Worship Schedule**

November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Reign of Christ Sunday	Rev. Tom Watson
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> of Advent	Rev. Linda Butler
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> of Advent	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> of Advent	Rev. Felicia Urbanski

Council Meeting Dec. 3. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.