



November 30, 2025

Melville United Church
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Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain
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Melville United Church
Nov. 30, 2025
The First Sunday of Advent

Presiding: Rev. Linda Butler
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber

Prelude

Welcome & announcements:

Land Acknowledgement

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VU 1 (verses 1,3,5,7)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel
 that mourns in lowly exile here
 until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 3 O come, O come, great God of might,
 who to your tribes on Sinai's height
 in ancient times once gave the law
 in cloud, and majesty, and awe. R
- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. R
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 O bid our sad divisions cease,
 and be for us the Prince of Peace. R

Lighting the Advent Candle - Ann Ward and members of Kids' Church

Hymn: Hope Is a Star VU 7 (verse 1)

- 1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
 leading us on till the morning is bright.
 When God is a child there's joy in our song.
 The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
 and none shall be afraid.

Children's Time: Waiting

Music Ministry: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming arranged by Sally DeFord

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5 *reader Karen Boivin*

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established

as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,

and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,

so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, descendants of Jacob,

let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Sermon: Walking in the Light of God

Hymn: Dream a Dream MV 158

1. Dream a dream, a hopeful dream,
as children do on Christmas Eve,
imaginings, surprising things
to hold and to believe. (to believe.)
2. Dream a time, this Christmas time,
when no one's hungry or afraid;
that weapons go and harvests grow,
that friends are met and made. (met and made.)
3. Dream a peace, our planet's peace,
the greening of the earth at play,
the holy ground where life is found,
where God has touched the clay. (touched the clay.)
4. Dream a gift, the Christmas gift
that changes every thing we see:
the shimmering of angel wing,
the Child, the Mystery. (Mystery.)

Joys / Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Marg Frayne celebrates on Dec. 6th

Prayers of the People

Offertory invitation

Communion Hymn: All Who Hunger VU 460

- 1 All who hunger, gather gladly;
 holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
 Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
 all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.
- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;
 seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
 Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
 in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.
- 3 All who hunger, sing together;
 Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
 Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
 live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Gracious God, in this season when we celebrate the coming of your Child, Jesus,
we give you thanks and praise.

You created all things and called them good.

You made us in your image.

You delivered us from captivity and made covenant to be our God.

You spoke to us through the prophets.

Therefore with them and with the whole realm of nature round us, we say:

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

One: In the fullness of time, you sent your Child, Jesus Christ.
On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke it
and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. Each time you do this, remember me."
After the meal, he took a cup of wine, thanked you and gave it to his friends,
saying: "This cup is the new promise God has made with you. Each time you do this
remember me."

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

One: Spirit of Christ, Spirit of Life,
come and bless what we do here.
May our eating and drinking in the love of God
broaden the way we think, deepen the way we feel,
and send us out with renewed confidence into the world.

All: Amen

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Wine

One: The bread that we break

All: is our sharing in the life of Christ.

One: The cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks

All: is our sharing in the life of Christ.

One: The gifts of God for you the people of God.

(You are invited to come forward to receive bread from the central bread tray, and then grape juice from a server on your side of the church. You may leave your glass with the second server.)

Prayer After Communion (from A Wee Worship Book)

All: Christ, you have put your life into our hands:
now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew and remake us.
What we have been is past;
what we shall be, through you, still awaits us.
Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

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.

Benediction and Commissioning

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

Welcomers: Susan Barth, John Cuming

Counters: Karen Smillie, Chris Hopewell

Worship Schedule

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| December 7 th | 2 nd of Advent | Rev. Jeff Hawkins |
| December 14 th | 3 rd of Advent | Rev. Linda Butler |
| December 21 st | 4 th of Advent | Rev. Linda Butler |
| December 24 th | Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm | Rev. Tom Watson |

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