



December 21, 2025

Melville United Church
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Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain
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Melville United Church
December 21, 2025
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Carol: Angels from the Realms of Glory VU 36

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
 wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 ye who sang creation's story,
 now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn King.

- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
 watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing,
 yonder shines the infant Light:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn King.

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
 brighter visions beam afar;
 seek the great desire of nations;
 ye have seen his natal star:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn King.

- 4 Saints before the altar bending,
 watching long in hope and fear,
 suddenly the Lord, descending,
 in his temple shall appear:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn King.

Lighting the Advent Candles: *Lara Johnston, Catie and Amanda Johnston*

One: Again, we light three candles in our Advent wreath as we remember God's gifts of hope, peace and joy.

(two purple candles and one pink candle are lit)

Two: Today, we light a fourth candle and our circle is complete. (one purple candle is lit)

Three: This candle is a symbol of God's love that was born anew in baby Jesus on Christmas Day. It is a symbol of God's love that is alive in us each day, too.

One: It is a love that has no ending, that lives on in young and old, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.

Two: Let us pray.

All: O God, come, travel with us through Advent. Give us courage to spread love in the world, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: Hope Is a Star VU 7 (verse 4)

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,

Jesus has come and will never depart.

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: The Stone Lion *by Margaret Wild and Ritva Voutila.*

Presentation by Choirs: Christmas Around the World

African Alleluia by Benjamin Harlan, sung by all the choirs percussion played by Morven McCorquodale and Karen Boivin

Wexford Carol arranged by Elaine Hagenberg, sung by the Melville Choir

Christmas in Australia

The Silver Stars Are in the Sky (Lullaby Carol) *published in 1948 as part of the collection, Five Australian Christmas Carols, sung by the Men's Chorus*

Christ Child's Lullaby *lyrics written by the Catholic priest Ranald Rankin in the mid-1800s in Moidart, Scotland, sung by Spirit Sings*

Carol: VU 71 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitche Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.

2 Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found,
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high: R

3 The earliest moon of wintertime

is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. R

- 4 O children of the forest free,
the angel song is true,
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy: R

Christmas in Spain

Villancico (Spanish Christmas Carol) arrangement by Bruce Trinkley, *sung* by the Men's Chorus

Christmas in the West Indies

Calypso Lullaby *text and setting by Joel Raney, sung by the Melville Choir percussion played by Morven McCorquodale and Karen Boivin flute played by Mercedes Weber*

Christmas Must Be Tonight - *Robbie Robertson wrote the song as a gift for his newborn son, Sebastian, sung by Spirit Sings*

Joys / Concerns

- Birthdays
 - Cecily Ricketts celebrates on Dec. 22nd
 - Doreen Broom celebrates on Dec. 23rd

Prayers of the People

Offertory invitation

Offertory Song: VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter, verse 4

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Offertory Prayer

Carol: Go Tell it on the Mountain VU 43

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching

o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. R

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. R

Benediction and Commissioning (*from **Flames of the Spirit***)

One: Follow the light of hope's guiding star.

All: Seek the child.

One: Listen to the words of a heavenly host.

All: Find the child.

One: Offer as gifts the best that you have.

All: Serve the child.

One: Peace be among us.

All: God be with us. Amen.

Postlude: Caribbean Carol *arranged by Patrick M. Liebergen - sung by all singers, percussion played by Morven McCorquodale and Karen Boivin; flute played by Mercedes Weber*

Welcomers: Mary Lloyd, John Cumimg

Counters: Chris Hopewell, Allan Hons

Worship Schedule

December 24 th	Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	Rev. Tom Watson
December 28 th	1 st Sunday after Christmas	Rev. Tom Watson
January 4 th	Epiphany Sunday	Rev. Jeff Hawkins
January 11 th	The Baptism of the Lord	Rev. Tom Watson

Council Meeting Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 4. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.