



*Celebrating
180 Years*



January 18, 2026

Melville United Church
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Melville United Church
January 18, 2026
The Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

Christ assures us that wherever two or three are gathered in his name, he is there.

We light this candle as a reminder, and to celebrate Christ's constant presence. May we always seek Christ's guiding light in our lives.

Call to Worship (*adapted from **Bread for the Journey***)

From the midst of our lives with their very real problems,

we come to seek courage and strength from the presence of God, and the support of one another.

As people who love imperfectly and are loved imperfectly,

we come to be transformed by God's unconditional, steadfast love.

Let us worship, with hearts open to the love of God,

with hands outstretched to one another,

and with whole selves willing to accept the cost and joy of following Jesus.

Hymn: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise VU 101

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus Christ, to you we raise,
manifested by the star,
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in your birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to you addressed
God in flesh made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest
in your Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine:
anthems be to you addressed
God in flesh made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;

manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to you addressed
God in flesh made manifest.

4 Grant us grace to see you, Lord,
mirrored in your holy Word;
with your grace our lives endow,
grace to imitate you now,
that we like to you may be
at your great epiphany;
anthems be to you addressed
God in flesh made manifest.

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Dream a Dream MV 158

Dream a dream, a hopeful dream,
as children do on Christmas Eve,
imaginings, surprising things
to hold and to believe. (to believe.)

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.)

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.)

Dream a gift, the Christmas gift
that changes every thing we see:
the shimmering of angel wing,
the Child, the Mystery. (Mystery.)

Children's Time: God's Dream *by Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

Music Ministry: Loving God, Loving People *words and music by Don Besig and Nancy Price. Sung by Jo-Anne Hall and Accompanied Suzanne Flewelling*

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 40 *(selected verses from Psalms for Praying)*

One: I waited patiently for the Beloved, who heard my cry and came to me.

All: Love raised me from the pits of despair, out of confusion and fear,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

One: There is a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to the Beloved.

**All: O Beloved, how wondrous are your gifts to us;
your thoughts are beyond our imagination.
What joy to live in oneness with You.**

One: I will tell the glad news of Love's way to all who will listen.

I aspire to reveal your steadfast love and truth through the witness of my life.

All: May all who seek Love rejoice and be glad!

May all who would live truth and justice continually call upon Love!

Gospel Reading: John 1:29-42 *reader: Neil Dunsmore*

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

Sermon: Come and See

Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me VU 567

1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind

and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

4 Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

5 Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Joys / Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Bruce Perkin celebrates on Jan. 18th
 - Barbara Lynden celebrates on Jan. 20th
 - Mary Lloyd celebrates on Jan. 21st

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: As a Fire Is Meant for Burning VU 578 (tune 374)

- 1 As a fire is meant for burning
 with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
 giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
 but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
 finding neighbours everywhere.
- 2 We are learners; we are teachers;
 we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
 we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
 we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
 we would live to God's delight.
- 3 As a green bud in the springtime
 is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
 mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
 when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
 of God's new and glorious dawn.

Benediction and Commissioning (*adapted from **Touch Holiness***)

One: The way is long,

All: let us go together.

One: The way is difficult,

All: let us help each other.

One: The way is joyful,

All: let us share it.

One: Let us go forth with the love of God, the grace of Christ,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Postlude

Welcomers: Barb Gregory, John Cuming

Counters: Karen Smillie, Phil Brown

Worship Schedule

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| January 25 th | 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany | Rev. Felicia Urbanski |
| February 1 st | Black History Month | Tracy Lee |
| February 8 th | 5 th Sunday after Epiphany | Rev. Tom Watson |
| February 15 th | Transfiguration Sunday | Rev. Linda Butler |

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