



**Celebrating  
180 Years**



**January 25, 2026**

Melville United Church  
300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9  
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**Team Ministry**

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Faith Formation & Youth	Ann Ward
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**Melville United Church**  
**January 25, 2026**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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*Presiding today - Rev. Felicia Urbanski  
Musicians – Colleen Weber, and the Melville Choir*

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

Let us pause for a moment and consider our role in reconciliation.  
Let us take time to acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial.  
God, help us to be thankful and to become better neighbours and stewards that we might continue to honour these lands.

**Lighting the Christ Candle (in unison):**

**We light a light in the name of the God who creates life,  
in the name of the Christ Presence who loves life,  
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.**

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

We come together as the body of Christ.  
**We open our hearts and minds to the way of Jesus in the world.**  
We are here to be shaped into the witness of Jesus' love.  
**We have come to practice how to live as Christ calls us to live.**  
Let us join together in worship.

**Hymn: We Praise You, O God VU 218**

- 1      We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
          in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
          We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
          we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
  
- 2      We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,  
          through trial and tempest, companion and guide.  
          When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,  
          but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.
  
- 3      With voices united our praises we offer  
          and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
          Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,  
          to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

**Opening Prayer (in unison):**

**God of all being, bless us with an awareness of your presence. Surprise us with your mysteries in the midst of our living. Transform us with the deep assurance of your love. In all we say and do, help us to follow Jesus, casting nets of love to fish for people. Amen.**

## Children's Time

**Ministry of Music: Come, Follow Me** by John Nicholson and Samuel McBurney, arr. Steven Smith. Sung by the Melville Church Choir, accompanied by Colleen Weber (piano) and Felicia Urbanski (violin)

### Prayer Seeking Forgiveness (responsive):

Sometimes you call, and we're too busy to hear you.  
Sometimes you call, and were too tired to care.  
Sometimes you call, and we're frozen by our fear.  
Sometimes you call, and we go, but unwillingly,  
pulling back every step of the way.

**We ask you to forgive our busyness, our tiredness, our fear, and help us to live life in your call.**

We ask this in the name of the One who walks with us in each moment...Jesus the Christ.

**Amen.**

### Words of Assurance

The good news is that God calls us again and again. Even if we turn our backs, God keeps calling. God finds many ways to meet us and to call us to use our gifts for the work of grace and love. Thanks be to God for this good news. Amen.

**Scripture (New Revised Standard, Updated Version). Reader: Millie Cumming**

**Isaiah 9:1-4**

The people who walked in darkness  
    have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
    on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied exultation;  
    you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
    as with joy at the harvest,  
    as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden  
    and the bar across their shoulders,  
    the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

### Matthew 4: 12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
    on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
    have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
    light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

### **Sermon: We Have Seen a Great Light**

#### **Hymn: O Jesus, I Have Promised VU 120**

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:  
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
  
- 2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.
  
- 3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.
  
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

### **Joys and Concerns**

- **Birthdays**
  - Marg Shortt celebrates on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Bonny Nevett celebrates on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Ginny Warren celebrates on Jan. 31

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Offering Invitation**

#### **Offering Hymn: MV 85 (refrain only, sung twice)**

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

## **Offering Prayer**

### **Hymn: In Christ, in Thee My Soul VU 630**

1 O Christ, in thee my soul hath found,  
and found in thee alone,  
the peace, the joy I sought so long,  
the bliss till now unknown.

Now none but Christ can satisfy,  
none other name for me!  
There's love, and life and lasting joy,  
Christ Jesus, found in thee.

2 I sighed for rest and happiness,  
I yearned for them, not thee;  
but while I passed my Saviour by,  
his love laid hold on me. R

3 I tried the broken cisterns, ah!  
But how the waters failed;  
even as I stooped to drink they fled,  
and mocked me as I wailed. R

4 The pleasures lost I sadly mourned,  
but never wept for thee,  
till grace my sightless eyes received,  
thy loveliness to see. R

## **Commissioning and Blessing**

### **Postlude**

### **Household Prayer**

Jesus, thank you for showering your compassion on us. We know that in any circumstance we can come to you, and we will not be turned away or ignored. Thank you for caring about us deeply and understanding our needs.

Help us to have faith like the crowd that followed you. No matter what we have going on, give us the courage to drop what we think is important, and instead give our whole selves to you. Help us to identify what is holding us back from fully committing our lives to you today. You call us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). Allow us to trust you fully with all four of those and to follow you, even if the destination is unknown. We know that wherever you lead us, you will provide. Amen.

**Welcomers:** Linda and Norm Porritt

**Counters:** Kaillie Rawn, Chris Hopewell

### **Worship Schedule**

February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Black History Month	Tracy Lee
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Tom Watson
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Transfiguration Sunday	Rev. Linda Butler
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> in Lent (Communion)	Rev. Tom Watson

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.