



January 4, 2026

Melville United Church
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Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain
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Melville United Church

January 4, 2026

Presiding: Rev. Jeff Hawkins

Ministry of Music: Suzanne Flewelling

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

Praise the Creator of the sun and moon and shining stars!

Give praise, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

Give praise, hills and mountains.

All people together, let us praise the name of the Lord and declare God's glory in heaven and on earth.

Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn: Twas in the Moon of Wintertime VU 71

- 1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi 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

Opening Prayer:

God of majesty and mystery, we come to you in wonder and praise, for your presence is always with us. We praise you for your creation, for your transforming grace and your abiding steadfast love. Amen

Children's Time

Ministry of Music: We Three Kings

Prayer of Confession:

God of light and life, you have come to us in Christ Jesus to open a path to new life, but we fall back on what is familiar. We confess we are in love with our old ways and our resolutions for change fall short. Forgive us who we have been, amend who we are and direct who we shall be.

Assurance of Pardon

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Be assured of God's forgiveness.
Make a new start this year, be at peace with God, secure in the knowledge of God's love.

Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-12 *reader John Cumming*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Sermon: Engage the Spirit in 2026

Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old VU 81

- 1 As with gladness men of old
 did the guiding star behold,
 as with joy they hailed its light,
 leading onward, beaming bright,
 so, most gracious Lord, may we
 evermore your splendour see.

- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
 to that lowly manger bed,
 there to bend the knee before
 Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
 so may we with eager pace
 ever seek your throne of grace.

- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
 at that manger crude and bare,
 so may we with holy joy,
 pure and free from sin's alloy,
 all our costliest treasures bring,
 Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

- 4 Holy Jesus, every day
 keep us in the narrow way;
 and, when earthly things are past,
 bring our ransomed souls at last
 where they need no star to guide,
 where no clouds your glory hide.

- 5 In the heavenly country bright
 none shall need created light;
 you its light, its joy, its crown,
 you its sun which goes not down;
 there for ever may we sing
 hallelujah to our King.

Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Liz Moore celebrates on Jan. 6th
- **Condolences**
 - We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Dianne Lindsey who passed away on December 28th. Please keep the family in your prayers. A memorial service will be held at 2pm today (Jan. 4).

Prayers of the People

Offering Hymn MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. (x2)

Offering Prayer

Parting Song: The First Nowell VU 91

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say
 was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the King of Israel.
- 2 They looked up and saw a star,
 shining in the east, beyond them far;
 and to the earth it gave great light,
 and so it continued both day and night. R
- 3 And by the light of that same star
 three wise men came from country far;
 to seek for a king was their intent,
 and to follow the star wherever it went. R
- 4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
 o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
 and there it did both stop and stay,
 right over the place where Jesus lay. R
- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
 full reverently upon their knee,
 and offered there in his presence
 their gold and myrrh and frankincense. R
- 6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought. R

Benediction

Postlude

Welcomers: John Cuming, Alison Rainford

Counters: David Gohn, Allan Hons

Worship Schedule

January 11 th	The Baptism of the Lord	Rev. Tom Watson
January 18 th	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Linda Butler
January 25 th	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
February 1 st	Black History Month	Martha Duncan

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.