



**Celebrating
180 Years**



March 1, 2026

Melville United Church

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Team Ministry

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Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

Office Administrator

Custodian

Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

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Ann Ward

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Lynda Rivet

Suzanne Flewelling

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9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. M, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T, Th. & F.

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March 1, 2026

*Presiding: Rev. Jeff Hawkins
Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcement

Land Acknowledgement

Lenten Candles Liturgy *reader Kids' Church*

Lent 2: Sheltering Wings

(the Christ candle and one purple candle are lit prior to worship)

One: We remember that God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have as many descendants as the stars in the sky. When Isaac was born, he became known as the child of promise. His name means laughter.

Two: (Lighting the second purple candle) Children fill the world with laughter and love. We are signs of God's promise and blessing.

Three: Jesus longed to protect his people from danger. He wanted to take them under his wings like a mother hen sheltering her chicks from harm.

One: Let us pray.

All: God, we give thanks for sheltering hearts that see each person as a child of your promise. Help us to be sheltering wings for each other. So that blessings of laughter and tears, joy and creativity might be allowed to flow freely among us. Amen.

Call to Worship:

Into life's challenges and questions comes the Mystery of God,
and God's truth opens our eyes.

Into our routines and rituals walks the presence of Christ,
and God's love brings healing and hope.

Into our traditions and conclusions blows the wind of the Spirit,
and God's people are born from above.

We gather in Jesus' name to encounter God's grace and glory.

Let us worship God with open hearts and minds.

Opening Hymn: Spirit of the Living God VU 376

1 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

2 Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

Opening Prayer Lenten Candles

God of majesty and mercy, With the smallest gesture of your love, you renew our hope. Deepen our sense of your holy presence this day. Assure us that your love will never let us go. We offer our praise and our prayers this day to you, with humble hearts and faith that seeks understanding. Amen.

Ministry of Music: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms *arranged by Mark Hayes. Sung by the Melville Choir*

Prayer of Confession:

As the same God of mystery and mercy, we confess we prefer simple certainty to seeking deeper understanding. We settle for what we know. Forgive us when our faith falters. Open our eyes to the truth and give us courage to rethink what we have assumed about you and your love for the world. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! Thanks be to God for love that gives us all a new start this very day!

Scripture: John 3:11-16 *reader Karen Boivin*

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Sermon: The Tree of Love

Hymn: We have Come at Christ's Own Bidding VU 104

- 1 We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

- 2 Light breaks in upon our darkness;
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:

Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

- 3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.

Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays

- Galina Terekhov celebrates on March 4th
- Linda Porritt celebrates on March 6th

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: Come, O Fount of Every Blessing VU 559

- 1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.
- 2 Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.
- 3 O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!

Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Benediction

Postlude: Toccata by *Johann Ernst Eberlin*

Welcomers: Linda and Norm Porritt

Counters: Karen Smillie, Phil, Brown

Worship Schedule

March 6 th	World Day of Prayer	
March 8 th	3 rd in Lent (Annual Congregational Meeting)	Rev. Tom Watson
March 15 th	4 th in Lent	Rev. Linda Butler
March 22 nd	5 th in Lent	Rev. Tom Watson

Council Meeting Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, & Jun 3. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.