

Melville United Church

Order of Service

Epiphany

January 3, 2010



Epiphany - Feast of the Church on the 6th of January. It originated in the East where it was celebrated in honour of the Lord's Baptism. It was introduced into the Western Church in the 4th Century but here lost its character as a feast of the Baptism of Christ, which it has retained in the Eastern Church down to the present day. Instead it became associated with the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles in the person of the Magi.

WE APPROACH GOD IN CELEBRATION

Visiting with Friends

Lighting of the Christ Candle *(Time of quiet reflection)*

Entrance of Choir and Worship Leaders

Prelude: Sleep Holy Child

Rob Roy Peery

Call to Worship

People of the world, it is time to seek out the Christ Child.

Arise, shine, for our light has come.

People of Melville, it is time to respond to the signs of hope.

Arise, shine, for our light has come.

People of Melville United Church, it is time to revel in the mysteries of light.

Arise, shine, for our light has come.

People of God, it is time to worship in this place.

Arise, shine, for our light has come.

Hymn VU 79 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Opening Prayer

Let us pray together.

God of all life, we come to worship. May we see through the wrapping paper, the festive trees, and the glass ornaments to see the Christ Child among us, born as one of us. Help us to discover the child in all the epiphany moments of our living and worshipping here. Then send us out to reveal your presence and your promise to this world.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, giver of all gifts, when we do not recognize the gifts that lie within us,

forgive us.

When we do not recognize the gifts you have granted to our brothers and sisters,

forgive us.

When we are reluctant to hear your voice calling us by name for fear of where that voice might lead us,

forgive us.

Sung Response: VU 37 Gloria

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Assurance of Pardon

God has brought us again to this place, where we can leave behind our confessions. And for these gifts of confession God says, "Thanks. Thanks for your honesty, your trust, your faith, your love." And the gift that God gives us this new year is a new journey with the Child who grows, and loves us, and lives for us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

(Liturgy taken from "Seasons of the Spirit")

Welcome/We Share of Joys and Concerns

Hymn VU 74 What Child is This?

(Children are invited to come forward during the last verse.)

Message for Youth

(Children leave for Kids' Church)

WE LISTEN TO GOD THROUGH WORD AND SONG

Anthem: Unto Us is Born a Son

David Willcocks

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Hebrew Lesson: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalm 72 pg. 790, Voices United, Parts 1 & 2

Letters to the Early Church: Ephesians 3: 1-12

The Gospel According to: Matthew 2: 1-12

Read by Rev. Smith

Reader: Ruth Sproule

Hymn VU 91 The First Nowell

Sermon: "LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

Rev. Shelley Smith

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Offertory Music: Sing We All at Christmas

Robert Roesch

Offertory Response: VU 81 Verse 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.**

Offertory Prayer: (in unison)

Loving God,
as Magi approached the child Jesus, we, follow a star of hope, we,
come with awe and wonder, we, bring gifts - ourselves, our time and
our commitment. Send us home a different way, changed by coming
here. In Jesus name we pray. AMEN.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn VU 81 As With Gladness

Commissioning and Benediction:

Choral Response: VU 35, verse 3
 Good Christian friends, rejoice
 with heart and soul and voice!
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!
 Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all
 to gain his everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Postlude: Fantasia on "Adeste Fidelis" Lani Smith

We pray for all those in need this day, for those who are either in the hospital or at home:
 Marguerite Martin, Bill Dickie,
 Ella Broderick, Doug Schieck,
 Bruce Skeoch

Hospitals: If you or someone you know from Melville United is in hospital, please call 1-519-277-3030. Also, if you don't request a minister to visit at the hospital, your name will not appear on the Visiting List at the hospital.

Partners in Prayer:
Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mary Lloyd, Rozlyn Oates
 Karen and Glenn McGinnis

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings:
 Jan 10, 2009 - Second after Epiphany
 Minister: Rev. Shelley Smith
 Hebrew Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7
 Psalm 29 pg. 756, Voices United
 Acts of the Apostles: 8:14-17
 The Gospel According to: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Babies and Toddlers would love to spend an hour with you on a Sunday morning! Please find a Sunday when you could help in the nursery. A sign-up sheet is located in the nursery or speak to Shawna Dunsmore.

If you would like to receive the Sunday bulletin by email please send the office your email address and you will be added to the list. Also, if you would like to be added to the E-Grapevine list which lets you know of funerals and special requests, etc. please let the office know.

Offertory Envelopes for 2010 are available at the back of the church. Please pick them up when you get chance.

It is that time of year again! Please remember to get your annual **committee reports** to the office by the end of the year for inclusion in Melville's Annual Report.

The Centre Wellington Food Bank would like to thank the congregations for their generous donations of carrots for the Christmas Hampers.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Jan. 4 to Sun. Jan. 10, 2010

Tues. 5	7:00	JNAC	Parlour
Wed. 6	7:30	Stewardship	Parlour
Fri. 8	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
Sun. 10	10:30	Sunday Service	Sanctuary

Melville Directory

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Fergus, Ontario

519-843-1781

Minister: Rev. Shelley Smith 1-519-277-3030

Youth Ministry Leader: Jen Auger

Music Director: Matthias Schmidt

Secretary: Gerri McCullough

Custodian: Robert Mitchell

Chair of Church Council: David Gohn

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