

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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photo taken by: Brian Gedcke

Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner
Music Director:	Alexander Cann
Family Ministries Coordinator:	Meg Chalmers
Custodian:	Darcy Feaver
Office Administrator:	Michelle Millson

◆ 10 December, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Advent II – Sacrament of Baptism

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ December 10, 2017 ◆

ADVENT II - SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

* indicates a time to stand, if you are able
congregational responses are in **boldface type**

◆ All are welcome for coffee and conversation in
the parlour after worship ◆

◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT - MV 164 *Christe, lux mundi*

Christe, lux mundi, qui sequitur te habet lumen vitae.

O Christ, light of the world, whoever follows you will have the light of life

* OPENING HYMN - *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*

VU 18

* LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ is coming into the world.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 85)

One: Let us hear what God will speak,

for the Holy One speaks peace to the people,

to the faithful, and to all who turn to God in their hearts.

All: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet.

Righteousness and peace will embrace.

One: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

**All: The Holy One will give what is good,
and we will bring our praise and song.**

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE (PEACE)

candle lit by Michelle and Aric Rankin, children: Mackenna, Connor and Morgan

One: As the season of Advent begins we celebrate hope.

**All: We know that through the birth
of a tiny and helpless child,
God is coming to save the world.**

One: While we watch and wait for Jesus to arrive,
we join in God's mission by bringing grace and mercy
to those who need it most.

**All: We engage the poor and the poor in spirit,
letting Christ's light shine through us.**

One: We speak words of comfort and love
to a world in need of healing
as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.
(a blue candle is lit)

Song: *A Candle is Burning*

VU 6 (Verse 2)

*A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN - *A Little Child the Saviour Came*

VU 445

◆ SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM ◆

Statement of Purpose

The sacrament of baptism
proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.
By water and the Spirit,
we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
we are called God's own,

welcomed as children of God;
we are claimed by Christ,
united with Christ,
united with one another and the Christian community
of every time and place;
we are commissioned to Christ's ministry
of love, peace, and justice,
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit
for the work of the church in the world.

A Reading from Scripture

Matthew 3: 13-17 (Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River)

Presentation (Margaret Duff, Worship Committee Chair)

On behalf of the congregation of Melrose United Church,
I present Morgan May Rankin, daughter of Aric and Michelle
Rankin for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

Profession of Faith and Promises

Do you believe in God, Source of love;
in Jesus Christ, love incarnate;
and in the Holy Spirit, love's power.

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ,
do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

I do, God being my helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join

with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Parents

In baptism, Morgan marks an important step in her journey of faith.

Will you pray for her encourage her by your words and actions, and walk with her in the way of Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Godparents

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child will you support Morgan and her parents as they grow in faith?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of the Community of Faith

**The congregation may stand, as they are able*

As the people of Melrose United Church, do you commit yourselves to offer support and nurture for these persons within a community that worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, by the grace of God.

Affirmation of Faith

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God.

(the congregation is seated)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

Let us pray:
Gracious and Holy God,
we bless you for the gift of life,
and within it, the gift of water.
Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation.
By water, comes the growth of the earth.
Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.
In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do,
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

~The water is poured into the font~

May God's Spirit be upon us
and these waters of daily use,
which we now use
to baptize and to welcome.

The Act of Baptism

Morgan May,
I baptize you,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
One God, mother of us all. **Amen.**

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Morgan May, child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign
of Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you,
inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle (the baptismal candle is lit)

Morgan May, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

All: Amen!

Presentation of Books, Prayer Shawls, Certificates

One: Morgan, we present you with a book,
prayer shawl, and Certificate of Baptism. May the stories
of our faith support and encourage you as you grow in
your relationship with God. And may your prayer shawl
remind you that you are wrapped in God's love and care
all of your life.

The Hebrew Benediction

(sung, VU 965)

Presentation of Morgan to the Melrose Congregation

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Jim Kraemer

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Isaiah 40: 1-11

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 1: 1-8

One: This is the Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

* HYMN - *O Ancient Love*

VU 17

SERMON - "Highway Building"

ANTHEM - Rejoice! The King Shall Come!

K. Keil, arr.

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

- * OFFERING HYMN – *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery* VU 93, Verse 1
*When heaven's bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path where courts of power can hold no
sway, there with the Magi, let us kneel, our gifts to share, God's world to
heal.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said by all)

**God, you have shown us your glory:
in your holy word,
in the blessings of our daily lives,
and in the promise of your eternal kingdom.
In gratitude and thanks,
we offer you our hearts, our lives,
and all that we have.
Use these gifts, we pray,
to prepare your way of salvation
and to establish your realm of peace. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

- * CLOSING HYMN – *Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness* VU 28
- * COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE

*For ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing,
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
For ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.
Music: A. Cann*

- ◆ POSTLUDE

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

On Advent's third Sunday, we will light the candle of joy. This is the Sunday of Advent commonly called "*Gaudete*", from the Latin word for "Rejoice" -- the first word of the ancient Introit for Advent III ("Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice"). The sermon time will concern itself with Isaiah 61, 1-11. This text draws the picture of overwhelming need that is drawing divine attention. God's anointed is sent to the oppressed, to the ones whose hearts are crushed, to the captives, the imprisoned and to all who mourn. Of necessity, God's anointed will confront the perpetrators and sources of oppression, marginalization, hopelessness and despair. The divine mandate is to reverse seemingly hopeless circumstances and effect a transformation in a downtrodden people's identity and activity. The commission to "proclaim liberty" is language from the instruction for observing the Jubilee Year. During the Jubilee property and people held as payment for debt were returned to the families to which they originally belonged. Moreover the language in Isaiah 61 is a clear indication that the liberty proclaimed is intended to be made permanent through new social and economic relationships within the community. The comfort provided by God's anointed to the despairing in Jerusalem will change the way the people see themselves. No longer will they be humiliated, fragmented and dispirited. They will now be able to accomplish an important goal: the rebuilding of Jerusalem as a city where, with God's blessing, righteousness and justice flourish.

◆ Thank you ◆

...to our December coffee hosts – Barb and Keith Mann

◆ From Ralph: A Melrose Financial Update ◆

This has been a challenging year for the financial health of Melrose. Our rental income unexpectedly declined due to the temporary loss of a tenant as well as a reduction in special event rentals. The maintenance of our property has continued to be a strain, as we repaired the inevitable failings of an old building and equipment, and we renovated space for a new tenant. Payroll expenses have grown as we endeavoured to bring our staff

up to a living wage, and we experienced additional costs to provide coverage during an extended medical absence.

Our expenses so far this year have exceeded revenues by about \$115,000. We have drawn heavily on funds held by our Trustees to cover this deficit, and we will need to obtain additional funds from the Trustees this month. Our weekly donations this year have matched those received to this point last year. However, as our expenses continue to grow, we must strive for growth in our donations as well. Please consider if you are able to increase you donations to Melrose, either on a weekly or monthly basis or as a one-time extra donation. Every donation, no matter of size, is helpful.

◆ **Thank you** ◆

A very special thank you to all who helped with the reception following the Candlelight service. Thank you to Jeff Ogino, Linda and Sheri Saunders, Denise and Phil Farrauto, Sandra Winninger, Barb and Keith Mann, and to all those who donated baked goodies. THANK YOU from Kathy Ross.

◆ **2018 Offering Envelopes Now Available!** ◆

2018 Offering envelopes are now available for pickup in the church office. They will also be out in the parlour for the next 4 weeks. If you would like envelopes but do not currently have a number assigned please contact the office. Also, if you would like to switch from envelopes to PAR the church office can assist with the process.

WIT -Women in Touch potluck dinner

Wednesday December 13th at 6:30 pm, church parlour

Our guest for this evening is Jeni Hamu,

Community Support Coordinator for ESSENTIAL AID & FAMILY SERVICES
OF ONTARIO INC.

www.essentialaid.ca

We ask that, if able, please bring any item from their needs list:

baby foods (jars & pouches)

baby cereal

diapers (all sizes)

baby formula

Come to share food, fun & fellowship

◆ Melrose Office and Building Hours December 25-January 2 ◆

Please note that the office will be closed from **December 25 to January 2 inclusive**. The building will be open **December 27 to December 29 from 8am-3pm** and staffed by custodians only. Regular building custodial hours will return January 2. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

◆ Melrose Corner Shoppe... ◆

Stop in and check out all kinds of goodies. Shoppe is stocked regularly throughout the week as items are sold. There are always used and new treasures available! All proceeds go to stained glass window repairs.

◆ The Prayer Bear Ministry... ◆

... at Melrose is sponsored through a generous gift in loving memory of Easton Carter Strongman, the infant son of Adam and Jessica Strongman, who died in 2013. If you know of anyone in need of some Prayer Bear cheer, you are invited to take one of the bears from the table near the south (right hand) sanctuary door. Please fill in the Prayer Bear registry book also located on the table so that we have some information about the bear's new home.



◆ Presbytery News ◆

From December 5th meeting

- Heather Leffler, President of Hamilton Conference led worship and spoke about changes ahead and being proactive moving forward.
- A presentation was made by Rev Greg White and Laurie White on Remit 6, the main topic of the meeting. Briefly, it concerned One Order of ministry. After much discussion, the vote was taken and the remit was defeated.
- Pastoral Oversight reported that Rock Chapel U.C. will cease to exist. After discussion this motion was tabled to look further into the financial details.
- The draft budget was presented in detail by David Dawson.
- Hamilton Conference Persistent Friend, Diane Blanchard reported on the upcoming 'Living Apology Project' event Jan 11-15, 2018 at New Vision UC.

-Wesley Christmas store is open for registration & volunteers are most appreciated to help at Pilgrim UC King St. E. (See flyer in hall). Toques and socks are for sale to support Wesley. A great initiative in 2018 by Wesley: a food services social enterprise cafe will open at First Place. This cafe will benefit high barrier employment youth who will help operate the cafe. Please support Wesley Urban Ministries and all of their many outstanding programmes in Hamilton and Burlington to serve those less fortunate, needing support and assistance. Bravo WESLEY!
Submitted by Dianne Coons, Melrose Presbytery rep

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – December 11

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Parlour
Brownies, Guides	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room, Gym
Big Book Special Event	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium

Tuesday - December 12

Yoga Class	7:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Wednesday - December 13

Duet Club Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Women In Touch Dinner	6:30 p.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Thursday - December 14

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
RSCDS Dancing	1:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
English Country Dancing	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
West Hamilton U12 Soccer	7:30 p.m.	Gymnasium

Friday – December 15

WrapAround Executive	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Dress Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Saturday - December 16

Bach Elgar Messiah Concert	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary, Aud., Parlour, Chapel
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Sunday – December 17

Melrose Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30a.m.	Sanctuary
Bach Elgar Sing a long Concert	2:00 p.m.	Sanctuary