

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Darcy Feaver

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ 3 December, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Advent I – Communion

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ December 3, 2017 ◆

ADVENT I - COMMUNION

* 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—Largo from "Winter" *The Four Seasons*

A. Vivaldi

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 - *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

VU 2

* 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 (Jeremiah 33: 14-16)

One: The days are surely coming, says the LORD,
when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

**All: Justice and righteousness will fill the land
and all will live in peace and safety.**

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (HOPE)

candle lit by: Michael and Catherine Clase; children Imogen and Jonathan

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*

VU67 (Verse 1)

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN - *Dream a Dream*

MV 158

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

Reader: Dianne Coons

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Isaiah 64:1-9

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 13: 24-37

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY - "Worth the Wait"

SOLO - The people that walked in darkness, from Handel's *Messiah*

Soloist: Chris Palmer

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

★ OFFERING HYMN -- *Christ, Let Us Come with You*

VU 458

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

**All: Healing God, may these gifts of our hearts be used
to further your hope and love
in this hurting and broken world.
May we be the face of Christ for all
who need hope, healing, and love.**

One: May God's grace be upon these shawls ...
warming, comforting, healing, and enfolding.
May these mantles be safe haven ...
a sacred place of security and well being ...
sustaining and embracing in times of illness, loneliness, or
sorrow. May each one who receives a shawl be cradles in hope, kept
in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love.

**All: May each know that Melrose holds them in prayer and love,
and that God's grace surrounds them always.
In the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

A Celtic Communion for Advent

The Invitation to Communion

One: In the name of the One who said,
 “I am the bread of life,”
I invite you to come and eat.
In the name of the One who said, “I am the true vine,”
I invite you to come and drink.
In the name of the One who said,
 “Love one another, as I have loved you,”
I invite you all to the table of Jesus Christ.

The Peace

Let us greet one another in the name of Christ.
 “May the peace of Christ be with you.”

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God be with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Thank you, Almighty Creator,
 thank you for the earth and the waters,
 thank you for the sky, the air and the sun,
 thank you for all living creatures

All: Come, Advent Lord, in the Bread of Life.

One: Praise be to you, Holy Immortal One,
 for our homes, our families,
 our friends, and loved ones.
Praise be to you for all the people

around us everywhere in this wounded world.

All: Come, Advent Lord, in the Cup of Healing

One: You are God, one immortal;
incorruptible, invisible and faithful;
wonderful and worthy of praise;
strong and worthy of honour;
You are God, living and true;
wise and powerful; holy and splendid
great and good;
You are God, awesome and peace loving;
beautiful and righteous;
pure and kind; blessed and just;
tender and holy;
You are God, not in singularity of one person,
but in the Trinity of substance.

**All: We believe you; we bless you;
We adore you and praise your name for ever.
We praise you
through Christ who saves;
through Christ who brings life;
through Christ who is our resurrection.**

One: Through him the angels and archangels, the apostles
and all the saints and companies of heaven praise your
majesty. So grant, we pray you,
that our voices may be added to those of the celestial
chorus, in declaration of your glory, as we sing:

**All: (Singing) *O holy, holy holy God
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
Creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always!***

MV 203

The Words of Institution and Prayer for the Spirit

One: On the very night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread and gave You thanks.
He broke it and gave it to his friends saying,
“Take, eat, this is my body which is given to you;
do this in remembrance of me.”
In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave You thanks.
He gave it to his friends, saying,
“Drink this, all of you;
this is the blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

If you are thirsty, drink the Fount of Life.
If you are hungry, eat the Bread of Life.
Blessed are all who hunger for this Bread
and thirst for this Fount.
Together now we sing the mystery of Christ:

All: *(singing) Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!*

MV 204

One: Look with kindness on your people
gathered here before you.
Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts, that all who share in this loaf and cup
may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world.

All (singing):

*Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One,
hosanna and Amen!*

MV 205

Intercessions

One: At this time, we also remember all with whom You would have us share your feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain, all who are ill or alone. We pray for all who suffer loss through natural disaster or human wrongdoing, those who are constricted by fear and anxiety. We pray for ourselves and for our church that we may always strive for justice, mercy and peace in the name of the one who taught us to pray together, singing (VU#959)... *Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.*

The Sharing of the Elements

One: The Bread of Life shared with you.
The Cup of the New Covenant shared with you.
Come, for the meal is ready!

(our communion today will be received by intinction. If you are able, please come forward up the centre aisle. Pick up a piece of bread from the tray, dip it in the cup and consume it immediately, returning to your seats via the side aisles. The lighter coloured chalices contain grape juice, the smaller dark green chalices contain wine. If you are unable to come forward, the servers will gladly come and serve you in the pew. Please help them to locate you.)

Communion Anthem: Jesous Ahatonia

H. Willan, arr.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

One: Gracious God, we praise, worship and adore you for the food received at your table. You have sent Your Holy Spirit among us to make our eating and drinking here a true remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: We go from here strengthened, refreshed and empowered by your Spirit to make our living and working, our loving and doing and thinking a joyful remembrance of him. We look to that day when with the great company of witnesses that surround us, we may eat and drink and be glad in the glory of your realm. This we pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN – *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

VU 25

* COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

One: Enter this Advent with hope. Enter this Advent with patience. May your waiting be rich and the presence of our God full and near to you.

Bear God's hope to this world like a candle.

**All: May the God of mercy keep us,
the Holy Spirit cheer us,
and Christ in glory greet us,
now and at the day of his coming. Amen.**

◆ CHORAL RESPONSE

VU 423 Vs. 1

*God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again!*

POSTLUDE – Variation 1, *Goldberg Variations*

J.S. Bach

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Advent's second Sunday is devoted to the theme of peace. The lectionary reading from Isaiah (11: 1-10) lifts up this important theme, which seems ever more important in the context of the sabre rattling of our current crop of world leaders. The text begins by speaking about "A shoot ... out of the stump of Jesse." As a people devoted to the way of the Prince of Peace, we need to nurture these green shoots of peace when we find them, however they may seem. Appropriately this week we will celebrate another new life and new beginning as we celebrate the baptism of Morgan May Rankin who will be officially welcomed into the Melrose branch of the church family of God.

◆ Thank you ◆

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



◆ Advent ◆

Advent begins today with Communion, and the theme is Hope. Do you know someone who may enjoy coming to one of our Advent or Christmas services or events? Stop by the office or contact Michelle for copies of our Advent flyer.



◆ 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.

◆ **Mistletoe Bazaar update!** ◆

This year's total is in! We raised \$6212.30! Well done everyone! A special thank you to all of the volunteers who prepared and ran their tables this year and to all of those who joined us and shopped. Well done everyone! There are still frozen turkey pies available if anyone is interested. See Patti for more information.

◆ **White Gift Sunday** ◆

Collecting for White Gift Sunday will take place TODAY **December 3rd!** Wesley Urban Ministries is looking for new toys for all ages, gifts of non perishable foods, gift cards to support the families in need in Hamilton at Christmas Time. By supporting WUM we support our own community. These items are used in the Wesley Christmas program and Christmas Store. For more info on the Wesley Christmas program and Christmas Store please see the flyers on the Wesley bulletin board.

◆ **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.

◆ **From the Archives...** ◆

...You may notice a change to our lovely chancel in the next couple of weeks. The beautiful reredos curtain has been badly damaged along the

bottom hem through both age and use. We will be removing the curtain to have some repair and restoration done so that we can preserve it for many years to come. At this point, we do not know how long the work may take. We are also looking into cleaning the curtain, but are unsure if it will survive that process. It is coming up to ninety years old and has never been cleaned. We will update the congregation as we proceed. So for the time it is away, celebrate the wonderful wood panelling and the carved wood reredos valance.

◆ **Help Wanted!** ◆

After the Candlelight Carol Service TONIGHT - **December 3rd**, we will be holding a reception. If you can contribute a few Christmas Cookies, please leave them in the kitchen, clearly labelled for the Candlelight Carol Service. Also, please consider volunteering to help set up or clean up afterwards. Speak to Kathy Ross for more information about this event.

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 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.



◆ **Territorial Acknowledgement** ◆

At the suggestion of one of our members, the Worship Committee at its recent meeting supported including a territorial acknowledgement as part of our regular worship practice at Melrose. Territorial acknowledgements have become increasingly common in the aftermath of the Canadian Truth & Reconciliation process. Such acknowledgements are greatly valued by our First Nations people. Here's what ours will sound like: *"We acknowledge that the land on which we gather for worship is part of the sacred land of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg. It is territory covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is directly adjacent to Haldimand Treaty Territory."* The Haudenosaunee are Iroquois. The word *Anishinaabeg* translates to "people from whence lowered." Another definition refers to "the good humans," meaning those who are on the right road or path given to them by the Creator Gichi-Manitou or Great Spirit. The historian, linguist, and author Basil Johnson wrote that its literal translation is "Beings Made Out of Nothing" or "Spontaneous Beings," since the Anishinaabeg were created by divine breath.

◆ **Prayer Box** ◆

Many of you will know that after more than a century of faithful ministry, Olivet United Church closed this past June. Part of the sad task of that community was to distribute its treasures, some of which have been gifted to Melrose. One of these treasures is a lovely oak *Prayer Box* which currently rests on our narthex table. The intent is to give the opportunity

for the Melrose community to identify people or things close to our hearts for which prayers might be offered. The box is locked and the minister will spend intentional time in prayer during the week, lifting up the prayer requests that have been put into the Prayer Box. These particular prayers will *not* be offered in public worship and anonymity will be preserved. We are grateful to the Olivet congregation for bequeathing to Melrose a tradition that they have greatly valued through the years.

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – December 4

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	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium

Tuesday - December 5

Melrose Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
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 6

Duet Club Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Private Event	6:30 p.m.	Auditorium

Thursday - December 7

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 8

Carpet Cleaning in Parlour	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
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Saturday - December 9

Melrose Santa's Breakfast	9:00 a.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen
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Sunday – December 10

Melrose Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30a.m.	Sanctuary