

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Child & Youth Coordinator:

Michelle Millson

Custodian:

Lee Stallard

Office Administrator:

Pamela Kovacek

◆ December 11, 2016 - 10:30 a.m. ◆

Third Sunday of Advent

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, December 11, 2016 ◆

Third Sunday of Advent

* 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 – Winter from *The Four Seasons*

A. Vivaldi

INTROIT – *May We But Wait*

B. Harding (MV 175)

* OPENING HYMN – *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

VU 18

* LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ is in this place.

All: The light of Christ shines in our hearts.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: For the Lord, our God is coming to us!

One: Tell the poor, gather the lowly.

All: For the Lord, our God is coming to us!

One: The trees of the fields and all nature are awaiting eagerly the redemption of the earth.

All: For the Lord, our God is coming to us!

One: Let us praise the God of our salvation.

Let us hail God's Anointed One with shouts of joy.

All: Let us worship God!

THEME CONVERSATION – Gillian Webster

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (JOY)

Janelle and Eric Windhorst,
children: Natalie and Gavin

Voice #1: The candles of Hope and Peace remind us that our hope is in Christ and that he will come again to bring peace to the world.

Voice #2: Today the third week in our Advent journey begins, and so we light the third candle: the candle of Joy. In ancient times, the prophet Isaiah said, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in the land of deep darkness -- on them the light has shined." Christ's light has the power to overcome the darkness both in our world and inside of us.

Voice #1: The psalmist tells us to "make a joyful noise to the LORD, for the Lord is God who made us and whose we are, whose steadfast love endures forever."

Voice #2: Now we light the third candle, the candle of Joy as we remember the angel's wondrous message to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people." And so, let us pray together:

All: God of Good News, as we await your coming we give you thanks for the joy we have in Christ Jesus. May all who seek such joy find it. Come, God of Joy, Come! Amen.

(two blue candles and one pink candle are lit)

SONG – *A Candle is Burning* (verse 3)

VU 6

*A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy:
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow..*

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM – *Let Carols Ring*

arr. C. Black

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

* HYMN – *Hope is a Star*

VU 7

Reader: Patti Varey

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Isaiah 35: 1-10

One: The Word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: Luke 2: 1-7

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

* HYMN – *God of Still Waiting*

MV 20

SERMON: "What is this Fragrance?"

◆ RESPONSE ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

* OFFERING

* OFFERTORY HYMN – *What Child is This?* (vs. 3)

VU 74

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come one and all, to own him.*

*The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.*

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing,
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said by all)

**Giver of all good things,
let your grace flow through us;
a generous stream, unstoppable, refreshing, abundant.
We release these gifts into your river of love,
flowing out to all the world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

* CLOSING HYMN – *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* VU 25

* COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE – VU 955
*Grant to us your peace on earth,
Grant to us your peace, O God.*

POSTLUDE – Overture, Allegro, from *II Pastor Fido* G. F. Handel

◆ **Melrose Events** ◆

◆ **Worship Next Week** ◆

Sunday, December 18th is the final Sunday of Advent, the Sunday when we celebrate the arrival of the "Love" that came down at Christmas with the lighting of the last blue candle of our Advent wreath. The sermon series focused on the five senses continues this week with "sound." The Gospel reading will be Luke 1: 8-20 which features a rather noisy angelic choir who serenade some startled shepherds on a Bethlehem hillside. Jaroslav Vayda's splendid Advent hymn "Before the Marvel of This Night" (VU 40) contains a list of instructions given at the angels' choir practice and they are pretty good pointers for us as well in our Advent IV worship: "The love that we have always known,/ our constant joy and endless light,/ now to the loveless world be shown,/ now break upon its deathly night./ Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:/ sing love, sing love, sing God is love!"

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP AT MELROSE

at 10:30 am around the Parlour fireplace

Ted Lowrey, Shari Saunders & Carma McKay will lead
an informal service (pyjamas optional)
of carols and reflections suitable for the
Day of the Nativity of our Lord.
Cider will be provided and everyone is welcome!

◆ A Reminder to the Melrose Elders ◆

Please remember our lunch meeting **TODAY, December 11** after worship in the parlour with Philip.

◆ Social Justice Update ◆

The Social Justice Committee recently supplied hygiene kits (containing soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, socks) to Living Rock and Olive Branch. Both wonderful agencies reach out to at risk teenagers and young adults. The hygiene bags were a great hit and will be put to excellent use. Since the kits were so well received, the SJC will likely do something similar next year. So hang on to all those hotel soap and shampoo samples - we've found a good home for them!

◆ Melrose Bazaar – 2016 ◆

Thank you to all who played an important role in our very successful bazaar - the bakers, knitters, sewers, the chefs, sandwich makers, servers, table coordinators - and the shoppers. Saturday & Sunday sales raised \$5,874.95. **AND A BIG** thank you to all the bakers and helpers who made the 2016 Melrose Cookie Walk a fundraising success! Your contribution led to \$1425 in cookie sales. Sweet!

◆ Thank You... ◆

...to our December coffee hosts, Barb & Keith Mann.



◆ **Donation Envelopes** ◆

Please pick up your 2017 donation envelopes in the parlour after worship today! If you would like to have a box, please contact the office. We would be happy to set one aside just for you. As well, don't forget that the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittal) option of donation is a wonderful way of sharing with Melrose. Your monthly donation (with amount(s) as prescribed by you) is conveniently and automatically taken from your bank account once a month. You may start, change, or cancel this donation at any time by contacting the office.

◆ **Women in Touch** ◆

On **Wednesday, December 14th** at 6:30 p.m. the Women In Touch - WIT - potluck dinner is coming up. We meet in the church parlour at 6:30 pm. Our guests for December 14th -"Vox Angelica" - includes our very own Janet Kronick & 2 friends. We will be treated to an amazing evening of music.

◆ **Child and Youth Notes** ◆

Thursdays are for fun: join us Thursday evening from 6pm-7pm for a fun open hour of gym time here at the church! There will be **NO** Thursday evening Dec 29 and Jan 5.

Sunday School: Plan to join us each Sunday as we learn all about the Superheroes of the Bible! All ages welcome, nursery facilities available. Please note there will be **NO** Sunday School Dec 25 and Jan 1.

◆ **Did you spot the Roofers...** ◆

... working on our church building? Though we are indeed fortunate to have a roof over our heads, we have experienced water damage in several areas (including our lovely chapel) over the past few months. Other necessary projects had already completely exhausted the Property Committee budget for 2016 before the extreme urgency of the roof repairs became clear. If find yourself able to add a little to this year's offering to close this significant fiscal gap, the Treasurer and the Property Committee would be most grateful.

◆ **Melrose Corner Shoppe!** ◆

The Melrose Corner Shoppe is once again open for business! The Winter Solstice Christmas Sale will continue from Dec.1- 24, with new items every few days! Be sure to stop in and browse for Christmas goodies, stocking stuffers, hostess gifts & decorations or a treat for yourself! All proceeds will be put towards Melrose roof repairs. Your support is greatly appreciated.

◆ **Brr!!! Hat, Scarf and Mitten Drive** ◆

It's that time of year! The weather is getting colder and we're pulling out our hats, mittens and scarves. Many of the children at Lake Avenue School need these necessary items. Many of the children in need are Syrian Refugees who arrived when the weather was warmer. The school has a clothing room for students who need items. The Social Justice Committee is asking for your help in collecting **NEW** warm hats, mittens/gloves and scarves to stock up the school's clothing room. All sizes welcome. Donations can be placed in labelled box in auditorium. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

◆ **Office Hours: December 26 to January 3** ◆

Please note that the office will be closed from **December 26 to January 2 inclusive**. The building will be open December 27 to December 30 from 8am-3pm and staffed by custodians only. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

◆ **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.



◆ **A Light in the December Darkness** ◆

Do you have a friend or neighbour who is stressed, grieving a loss, or who may for some other reason find it difficult to be joyful this Christmas? If so, please consider using the invitation enclosed in the bulletin to invite them to the Light in the December Darkness service at Melrose on Thursday December 15th. This service is a simple way to acknowledge the sadness that some people may be experiencing at this time of year, and it requires no prior relationship with Melrose - anyone can attend.

YOU ARE INVITED TO...

A LIGHT IN THE

DECEMBER DARKNESS

Thursday December 15

7:00 p.m.

A quiet worship service of hope for those who are grieving, sad, lonely, or weary.

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

86 Homewood Avenue

(corner of Locke Street –

parking on Stanley Avenue)

905-522-1323

www.melroseunited.ca

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – December 12

Cookie Packing	9:00 a.m.	Kitchen
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Brownies, Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Chapel
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
CD Committee Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Nursery

Tuesday – December 13

Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Aud., Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Wednesday – December 14

Duet Club of Hamilton	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Women in Touch Dinner	6:30 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen

Thursday – December 15

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Thursdays are for Fun!	6:00 p.m.	Parlour, Gym
A Light in the December Darkness	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
English Country Dancing	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Friday – December 16

OnCourse Christmas Event	6:00 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
Hamilton District Christian High School Concert	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary, Aud.

Saturday – December 17

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Sunday – December 18

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