

◆ 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 24, 2016 – 7:00 a.m. ◆

Christmas Eve Family Service

We celebrate the birth of the Christ Child

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Saturday, December 24, 2016 ◆

Christmas Eve Family Service

We celebrate the birth of the Christ Child

* 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 – Chorale Prelude from *Wachet auf* (Sleeper's Wake)

J.S. Bach, arr. L. Giles; Maria Warren

* OPENING HYMN – *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

VU 60

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Be still this holy night.
Be still in this sacred place,
on this cold, dark night of great joy.
Be still and let your spirit stir.
We are in the presence of God.
Let the hole world celebrate.

All: Worship Christ, the newborn king!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR INTROIT – *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Children's Choir

LIGHTING OF THE NATIVITY CANDLE

(The three blue candles and pink candle are lit.)

Voice #1: God is with us

All: We are not alone.

Voice #2: Thanks be to God!

Voice #1: The gift of Emmanuel, God with us, is the gift of hope, peace, joy
and love.

Voice #2: We join the angels and the multitudes of heavenly hosts in singing songs of praise:

All: (singing)

VU 38 Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Voice #1 We light this nativity candle as a reminder of the indescribable gift of Emmanuel. (*white candle is lit*)

All: We are not alone.

Voice #2: Thanks be to God!

All: This is the flame of friendship, of daring love.

Let it burn within us and within everyone.

Let it burn in cold places and lonely places.

Let it burn in troubled places.

**Let love grow and grow until no one is cold,
no one is lonely, no one is troubled.**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

WELCOME

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

* HYMN – *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

VU 43

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2: 1 - 14 (Trumpeter to announce “A Decree...”)

STORYTIME with Michelle

SOLO – *Mary, Did You Know?*

M. Lowry/B. Greene

Emily Warren, soprano; Imogen Clase, piano

CAROL – *Away in a Manger*

VU 69

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING – *What Child Is This?*
Jonathan Clase, guitar

traditional

OFFERING HYMN – *Joy Is Now in Every Place*

VU 45

*Now and ever may we find
your good news to fill our mind:
peace and love to humankind,
hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said all together)

**Loving God, these are our gifts for your Son, Jesus. May they be used to
birth your love in the world and bring peace to all people. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS (concluding with the Prayer of Jesus)

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

VIDEO – New Zealand Christmas Pageant

★ CLOSING HYMN – *Joy to the World*

VU 59

★ COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

★ SHARING THE LIGHT

A LULLABY FOR THE CHRIST CHILD--*Silent Night (seated)*

VU 67

*Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace!*

*Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is born!*

*Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

Please blow out your candle before leaving the pew.

Ushers: Mat Xagoraris, Graeme Luke

Lighting Technician: Michael Clase

Instrumentalists: Chris Palmer, baritone, guitar; Ona Gutauskas, trumpet;
Kristina Gutauskas, trumpet; Maria Warren, horn; Alexander Cann, tuba,
piano, organ; Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner, organ

Thank you: to Gillian Webster for her lovely cover print on this
evening's bulletin

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!