

◆ 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 4, 2016 – 10:30 a.m. ◆
Second Sunday of Advent

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, December 4, 2016 ◆

Second 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 – Variatio 1, *Goldberg Variations*

G. F. Handel

INTROIT – *This is the truth sent from above*

R. Vaughan Williams, arr.

* OPENING HYMN – *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

VU 2

* LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ gathers us in peace.

All: The light of Christ gathers us together.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come among us, God,
source of life and heart of all –

All: so that we may know your Love.

One: Come among us, God,
wrapped in human flesh –

All: so that we may touch and see and hear your Love.

One: Come among us, God,
blowing bubbles of joy and hope –

**All: so that we may become your Love in the world
and share the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance,
freedom, equality, and solidarity with all people.**

**Come and be with your people, God
as we come to worship you!**

THEME CONVERSATION – Gillian Webster

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (PEACE)

Lucy-Jane and Allan Hannaford;
Scott and Sharon Whitmore,
children: Alistair and Isla Whitmore

Voice #1: We began Advent last Sunday by lighting the first candle, the candle of hope.

Voice #2: Today we light the second candle, the candle of Peace. The prophet Isaiah said: "Comfort, comfort my people" to a nation anxious about invasion and exile; then he foretold the coming of the Prince of Peace. Our world is also anxious and filled with violence. Isaiah's words continue to remind us not to despair: that Jesus will bring us to an everlasting peace.

Voice #1: Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn to give birth to Jesus, but we can heed John the Baptist's command to make room in our hearts. Where there is war or mistrust between peoples, God is present and leading us to imagine new ways of living in peace.

Voice #2: Christ is our hope, and our peace is found through him. We light this candle to remind us of Jesus' life-giving peace. We light it in honour of those who live the Gospel truth that war does not make for greatness, and to remember the peace workers in our world who take risks so that others may live free from fear. Let us pray:

All: We are in trouble, Holy God. So many in the world do not know peace in their nations or in their hearts. Open our hearts to Jesus so that we may have the peace of his holy presence and work for peace in our restless world. Come peaceful God, come. Amen.

(two blue candles are lit)

SONG – *A Candle is Burning* (verse 2)

VU 6

*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

ANTHEM – *Et misericordia*

J. Wilcocks

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

* HYMN – *Before the Marvel of This Night*

VU 40

Reader: Shari Saunders

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Isaiah 11: 1-10

One: The Word of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: Luke 1: 39-45

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

* HYMN – *Song of Mary*

VU 899

SERMON: "Touched Within"

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

* OFFERING

* OFFERTORY HYMN – *Joy is Now in Every Place* (vs. 4)

VU 45

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

DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERING AND WHITE GIFTS, (said by all)
**Advent God, You have called us by name and we now give ourselves to you through these symbols.
Multiply their goodness so that there is light in the darkness, dignity for all and hope and joy in every heart! Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

* CLOSING HYMN - *Tomorrow Christ is Coming* VU 27

* COMMISSIONING

One: Gift of power, gift of grace, gift of God;

All: go with us as we bear your gift of peace to the world.

* BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE –

VU 955

Grant to us your peace on earth,

Grant to us your peace, O God.

Postlude – Overture, Allegro, from *Il Pastor Fido*

G. F. Handel

◆ **Melrose Events** ◆

◆ **Worship Next Week** ◆

The third Sunday of Advent is commonly called "*Gaudete*", from the Latin word for "Rejoice" -- the first word of the traditional Introit for Advent III ("Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice"). Appropriately, then, this will be the Sunday that we light the rose-coloured candle in our Advent wreath, the candle of Joy. The spirit of worship throughout Advent is one of expectation and preparation for Christmas. Any penitential tone in worship is suspended on this third Sunday in order to symbolize the joy and gladness of the promised Redemption. The wise theologian, Henri Nouwen once described the important difference between joy and happiness. He said that, while happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is "the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing -- sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression,

war, or even death -- can take that love away." Joy can be present even in the midst of winter sadness. The sermon will be the third in an Advent/Christmas series on the five human senses -- this week: smell.

◆ **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.

◆ **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!

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.

◆ **White Gift Sunday** ◆

The final week for Collecting for White Gift Sunday will take place **TODAY--December 4th**! 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. Melrose supports Wesley Urban Ministries! By supporting WUM we support our own community.

◆ **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.

◆ **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.

◆ **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.

◆ **Have You Spotted 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.

◆ **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.



◆ **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.



MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – December 5

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Brownies, Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Chapel
M & P Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Chapel
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour

Tuesday – December 6

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 7

Duet Club of Hamilton	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Thursday – December 8

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

Friday – December 9

Bach Elgar Dress Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.	Auditorium
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Saturday – December 10

Bach Elgar Messiah Concert	7:30 p.m.	Aud., Kitchen Sanctuary
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Sunday – December 11

Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Worship Committee Meeting	11:30 a.m.	parlour
Birthday Party	3:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Tom Schilling: Master Class	7:00 p.m.	Chapel