

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Child & Youth Coordinator:

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◆ January 1, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

1st Sunday after Christmas

New's Years Day

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, January 1, 2017 ◆

1st SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

NEW YEAR'S DAY

★ 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 (Help yourself to the cider!)

★ HYMN – *Standing at the Portal*

*Standing at the portal of the opening year,
Words of comfort meet us hushing every fear,
Spoken through the silence
By our Lord's own voice,
Tender, strong and faithful,
Making us rejoice.*

Refrain

*Onward, then and fear not, children of the day,
For God's word shall never, never pass away*

*'I, the Lord, am with you, do not be afraid;
I will help and strengthen, do not be dismayed;
Yes I will uphold you with my own right hand;
You are called and chosen in my sight to stand.'*

Refrain

*For the year before us, O what rich supplies!
For the poor and needy living streams shall rise;
For the sad and lonely shall God's grace abound;
For the faint and feeble perfect strength be found.*

Refrain

*God will never fail us, God will not forsake;
This eternal cov'nant God will never break.
Resting on God's promise what have we to fear?
God is all-sufficient for the coming year.*

Refrain

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The Light of Christ has come into the world.

All: The Light of Christ shines in our hearts.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For everything there is a season:

All: And a time for every matter under heaven:

One: A time to be born and a time to die.

All: A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.

One: A time to break down, and a time to build up.

All: A time to weep and a time to laugh.

One: A time to keep and a time to throw away.

All: A time to be silent and a time to speak.

One: A time to love and a time to hate.

All: A time for war and a time for peace.

One: God has made everything suitable for its time.

All: God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.

One: God has done this and we give God thanks.

All: Whatever God does endures forever.

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

Almighty and eternal God,

we thank you for all the good things
you have given us in the past year.
Let this new year of 2017 also be filled with your blessings.
This we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

★ CAROL – *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*

VU 73

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM 8

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Ecclesiastes 3: 3-13

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 18-25

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

STORY REFLECTION: "Joseph, the Carpenter"

★ CAROL – *Unto Us a Boy is Born*

VU 54

★ OFFERING HYMN – *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Verse 4)

VU 55

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Loving God,

**out of your great love for the world,
you have given us so much.**

**We respond by offering these gifts
and our lives to spread the Good News of Jesus' birth.**

**We pray that you will empower us with your Spirit
to be faithful witnesses throughout the coming year
and throughout our lives.**

In the holy name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

(concluding with 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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN – *As the Old Year Passes*

*As the old year passes
we look back, reflect:
times of joy and promise,
times we'd best forget.*

*God of the ages
help us walk your way.
Help us greet your future,
seize tomorrow's day*

*As the old year passes
sorrow wells within:
loved ones no more 'round us,*

*all that could have been.
God of compassion
heal each ailing heart.
Guide us to your future
where new life may start*

*As the new year dawns now
we would give you praise.
Faithful God, come lead us
onward in new ways.
We'll love and serve you
in the faith of Christ,
in your Spirit's future;
people of new life.*

Words: David MacGregor © 2007 Willow Publishing
Music: Noel Nouvelet - VU 117

* COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

* SUNG RESPONSE — *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

VU 43

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

POSTLUDE (Help yourself to more cider!)

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Next Sunday, in our worship at Melrose, the Christmas narrative continues as we anticipate the Feast Day of Epiphany (Friday, January 6) and celebrate through song and story the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. In the Greek language and "epiphany" is a "manifestation" or "sudden awareness." The Magi were the first to recognize that the reign of love inaugurated by Jesus' birth would extend beyond Palestine to the whole world. One of the lovely European traditions associated with the day of Epiphany is marking the lintels of doorways with chalk and saying a blessing: "Peace be with this house and all who live here. And peace be with all who enter here." May peace break out in our world during 2017!

◆ From the Melrose Staff ◆

A sincere thank you is given to the Melrose M&P Committee for the generous gift cards and thoughtful notes that were received at Christmas this year. The staff is deeply grateful for the support of the hard-working M&P team and for the congregation as a whole.

◆ Corner Shoppe Help Needed ◆

The Melrose Corner Shoppe is open for business and needs helpers! Could you pop in once a week for an hour to re-stock shelves and tidy up displays? (Day & Time are both flexible.) If so, please speak to Claire or Suzanne or leave a message at the church office. Two or three helpers would minimize the time requirement even more. All Shoppe proceeds will go to Melrose roof repairs and your support is greatly appreciated.

◆ Thank You... ◆

...to our January coffee hosts – Denise and Phil Farrauto.



MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR		
Monday – January 2: OFFICE CLOSED		
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
Tuesday – January 3		
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Wednesday – January 4		
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Private Event?	4:30 p.m.	Gym
Little Learning House	6:30 p.m.	Parlour
Thursday – January 5		
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
English Country Dancing	6:45 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Friday – January 6		
Saturday – January 7		
Sunday – January 8		
Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary