

# ◆ 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

◆ 7 January, 2018 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Epiphany Sunday

# MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ January 7, 2018 ◆

EPIHPANY SUNDAY

\* 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 ◆

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## ◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT - The Lord hath manifested forth his Glory

G. Thalben-Ball

\* OPENING HYMN - *The First Nowell*

VU 91

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of the Christ pours into the darkest places.

**All: Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning  
bright.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Darkness is banished!

**All: God's light has come to us!**

One: The brightness of the Star leads us!

**All: We come to celebrate God's abiding love!**

One: Glory be to God in the Highest!

**All: And on earth, peace forever. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER (said by all): *An Epiphany Prayer*

VU 88

## ◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

\* CAROL – *We Three Kings*

*We Three Kings of Orient are  
bearing gifts, we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain  
following yonder star.*

**Refrain:** O star of wonder! Star of night!  
star with royal beauty bright.  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

*Born a King on Bethlehem plain  
gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign. Refrain.*

*Frankincense to offer have I  
incense owns a Deity nigh  
pray'r and praising, all men raising  
worship Him, God most high. Refrain.*

*Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes of life of gathering gloom  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Refrain.*

*Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice.  
Heav'n sings Alleluia,  
Alleluia the earth replies. Refrain.*

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

Reader: Joanne Hannaford

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 60: 1-6

One: The Word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1-12

One: This is the Gospel of our Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

A READING – “Bethlehem Down”

written by Bruce Blunt

HOMILY – “Lighten Up”

ANTHEM -- How Brightly Beams the Morning Star Nicolai, adapt. (VU 98)

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN – *In the Darkness Shines the Splendour*

VU 92

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**On this glad day**

**we are grateful for giving hearts made joyful  
in the gift of your Son.**

**For you, O God, are generosity itself.**

**Bless these gifts we offer.**

**Bless our lives in service of sharing your love in the world;  
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Epiphany Communion**

## *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.

## *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 the Lord our God.

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

One: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,  
with joy we praise you and give thanks to your name.  
In sending Christ the Light of the world,  
You revealed your glory to the nations.  
You sent a star to guide seekers of wisdom to Bethlehem,  
that they might worship Christ.  
Your signs and witnesses in every age  
lead people from every place to worship him.  
We praise you that in him we become your beloved children,  
baptized into your service, welcomed into your church,  
and called to share his ministry.  
Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God almighty.  
Your ways are just and true.  
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:** *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: We praise you, most holy God,  
for sending your child to live among us,  
sharing our joy and sorrow.  
He told your story, healed the sick,  
and was a friend of sinners.  
Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we  
might live.  
We praise you that he overcame death and is risen  
to rule the world.

We give you thanks that Jesus,  
on the night before he died,  
took bread,  
and after giving thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying:  
Take, eat.  
This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.  
In the same way he took the cup,  
gave thanks and offered it to his friends, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
which is shed for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,  
we break bread and share the cup,  
giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ.  
As you raised Jesus from death  
and call us with him from death to life,  
we give ourselves to you  
to live for him in joy and grateful praise.  
Great is the mystery of faith of which we sing:

**All:**    *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:**    Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ  
that we may be for the world  
the body of Christ.  
Send us out in the power of the Spirit  
to live for others, as Christ lived for us.  
By your Spirit draw us together into one body  
and join us to Christ the Lord,  
that we may remain his glad and faithful people.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour are yours, almighty God,  
forever and ever.

**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. There are two stations. 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 **larger** 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.)*

### The Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

One: Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek:

May we, with the Magi, being drawn by your light, recognize the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

And may his gospel shine in our hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace.



**All: Amen!**

★ CLOSING HYMN – *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery*

VU 93

★ BLESSING AND A CALL TO SERVICE FOR EPIPHANY

One: Christ is the light of our souls:

**All: We rejoice in this light, great source of truth.**

One: Christ is the light of our homes:

**All: We rejoice in this light, great source of peace.**

One: Christ is the light of the world:

**All: We rejoice in this light, great source of hope.**

One: Go out as Christ's true lights, dispersing the darkness of evil,  
for his grace, his power, his peace go with you.

**All: Amen.**

◆ CHORAL RESPONSE – *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

VU 43 Refrain

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

POSTLUDE

## ◆ Melrose Events ◆

### ◆ Worship Next Week ◆

One of the themes of the Epiphany season is the "manifestation" of divinity in the person of Jesus (many of our Epiphany hymns feature this word). The first such recognition occurs at Jesus' birth, especially in the story of the magi's visit, but biblically speaking the second is his baptism by John in the river Jordan. Again in this narrative God is the initiator and we are the receivers of grace. Appropriately Jesus' baptism will be the centerpiece of worship this Sunday. In the Gospel of Mark's version of these events (Mark 1: 4-11) we learn that John the Baptist's baptismal practice had two components -- repentance and forgiveness. As John

explains it, baptism is not only with water, but with the Holy Spirit. These elements are still true of baptism today. The baptismal liturgy marks the beginning of a new life lived in God's grace and forgiveness. On this second Sunday of the Epiphany season we will also welcome through baptism of water and the Spirit a new member to the church family of Christ: Aubrey Denis Mae Shellard-Sweet.

◆ **Thank you** ◆

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

◆ **2018 Offering Envelopes Now Available!** ◆

2018 Offering envelopes are now available for pickup in the church office. 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.

◆ **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.



<b><u>MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR</u></b>		
<b>Monday – January 8</b>		
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Brownies, Guides	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room, Gym
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
<b>Tuesday – January 9</b>		
Siva Yoga Class	10:30 a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Yoga Class	7:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
<b>Wednesday – January 10</b>		
Duet Club Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
<b>Melrose Official Board Meeting</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Parlour</b>
<b>Thursday – January 11</b>		
Early Years Workshop	9:15 a.m.	Parlour
<b>Melrose Bible Study</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
Early Years Workshop	10:30 a.m.	Parlour
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
<b>Melrose Choir Practice</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
West Hamilton U12 Soccer	7:30 p.m.	Gymnasium
<b>Friday – January 12</b>		
<b>Saturday – January 13</b>		
<b>Sunday – January 14</b>		
<b>Melrose Choir Practice</b>	<b>9:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
<b>Melrose Worship</b>	<b>10:30a.m.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>