

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

905 522 1323 ◆ melrose@melroseunited.ca

◆ www.melroseunited.ca ◆

◆ www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch ◆

◆ Twitter: @melroseunited ◆

◆ Instagram: @melroseuc ◆



Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Child & Youth Coordinator:

Michelle Millson

Custodian:

Lee Stallard

Office Administrator:

Pamela Kovacek

◆ January 8, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Epiphany Sunday

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, January 8th, 2016 ◆

EPIPHANY 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 ◆

◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT

* OPENING HYMN – *The First Nowell*

VU 91

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ pours into the darkest of 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: *An Epiphany Prayer* (said by all)

VU 88

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

◆ 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 WITH 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 Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN – *As With Gladness Men of Old*

VU 81

A READING: *The Journey of the Magi*

by T.S. Elliot

SERMON: “The Fourth Gift”

ANTHEM –

◆ RESPONSE ◆

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

* 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: 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.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN (said together)
(concluding with Prayer of Jesus)

**All: Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice by followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. 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.

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, then, Jesus' baptism will be the centerpiece of worship on the second Sunday of the Epiphany season. In the Gospel of Matthew's version of these events (Matthew 3: 13-17), one of the interesting details is John's initial reluctance to baptize Jesus. Jesus seems to John to need no baptism. John is the one who needs baptism, not vice versa. Jesus' persistence at being baptized has long confused interpreters. Why should Jesus have to receive John's baptism. Why would the eternal child of God "need" baptism by one lesser than himself? A lesson from the Hebrew scriptures (Isaiah 42: 1-9) may provide us with some interpretive guidance. Jesus not only teaches but *demonstrates* the divine will and in so doing he becomes a prototype and example for all of his followers through successive ages.

◆ Child and Youth Notes ◆

Sunday School: Every Sunday we learn about the bible, play games and have fun! Children of all ages welcome. The fun begins in the church service

and the children are led out to a time just for them about halfway through. Nursery facilities are available.

Thursdays are for fun: join us Thursday evening from 6pm-7pm for a fun open hour of gym time here at the church!

◆ **Flapjack Friday** ◆

Plan to join us on Friday February 24 @ 6:30pm for flapjacks. You bring the toppings - we will have the pancakes. It will be a time of feasting, community, and fun. All are welcome.

◆ **A note from the office** ◆

Thank you to the congregation for all of the thoughtful cards, gifts and treats during the Christmas season. Your support means so much to Melrose staff members.

◆ **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! Thank you! Thank you!** ◆

Lake Avenue School would like to thank the congregation of Melrose United and St. Andrew's United for their generous donations of hats, mittens and scarves. They are always needed and very much appreciated!

◆ **Donation Envelopes** ◆

There are still a few 2017 donation envelopes awaiting pick-up in the parlour after worship today! If you would like to have a box, please contact the office. 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.

◆ **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 – January 9

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

Tuesday – January 10

Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Chapel

Wednesday – January 11

Deut Club of Hamilton	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Melrose Official Board	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Thursday – January 12

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Thursdays are for Fun!	6:00 p.m.	Parlour, Gym
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 13

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Saturday – January 14

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Sunday – January 15

Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Private Rental Event	4:00 p.m.	Gym