

# ◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

905 522 1323 ◆ [melrose@melroseunited.ca](mailto:melrose@melroseunited.ca)

◆ [www.melroseunited.ca](http://www.melroseunited.ca) ◆

◆ [www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch) ◆

◆ Twitter: @melroseunited ◆

◆ Instagram: @melroseuc ◆



Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Darcy Feaver

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ December 24, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Advent IV – Pageant

# MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, December 24, 2017 ◆

Advent IV -- Pageant

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 Joseph est bien marié C. B. Balbastre

INTROIT – Veni sancte spiritus MV 75

\* OPENING HYMN – *Angels We Have Heard on High* VU 38

### \* LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ is coming into the world.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord!**

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Light the lamps, prepare the room,  
God is coming to us!

**All: Make our hearts and spirits ready  
to receive God's most gracious gift,  
God's Son, Jesus Christ.**

One: Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming!

**All: May God's light shine on us,  
in us and through us  
that God's glory may be seen. Amen.**

### LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE (LOVE)

*candle lit by Callan and Eirik Yates*

One: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's love.

**All: Soon we will welcome  
the beautiful and radical love of God  
as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.**

One: We embrace our identity as beloved children  
and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

**All: In our homes and in our church  
we offer warm hospitality  
by welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need,  
and those who are different from us.**

One: We demonstrate our care for creation  
in real and tangible ways through the products we buy,  
the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

**All: Together, we are a sign of God's love for the world.**

(The fourth candle is lit)

Song: *A Candle is Burning*  
*A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.*

VU 6 (Verse 4)

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆  
*Journey to the Christ Child*

I. THE ANGEL GABRIEL APPEARS TO MARY

Reader: Luke 1: 26-33

Choir: Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorius

II. NO ROOM AT THE INN

Reader: Luke 2: 1-6

★ HYMN – *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

VU 64

### III. THE COURT OF HEROD THE KING

Reader: Matthew 2:1-9

Choir: Coventry Carol, v. 1

Trad. English

### IV. THE ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

Reader: Luke 2:8

Choir: Glory to God, from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

★ HYMN – *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

VU 48

### V. THE SHEPHERDS COME TO THE MANGER

Reader: Luke 2:16

★ HYMN – *Away in a Manger*

VU 69

*(children sing verse 1 alone, everyone join in on verse 2)*

### VI. THE KINGS COME TO THE MANGER

Reader: Matthew 2: 10-12

Choir: *We Three Kings*

**Congregation please join on the chorus:**

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

#### ◆ RESPONSE ◆

*As the choir sings, those in the congregation are invited to bring their offerings forward to be placed at the manger.*

CHOIR: In the Bleak Midwinter

G. Holst

### PASTORAL PRAYER

★ HYMN – *Joy to the World*

VU 59

★ COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE

*For ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,  
The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing,  
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
For ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.*

Music: A. Cann

POSTLUDE – Tambourin sur des Noëls,

J. J. Charpentier

◆ **Melrose Vision** ◆

To respond to God's call by being a people of faith who open our hearts and minds to the true power and love of Jesus Christ. To live our faith by providing within our changing community a welcoming environment which encourages all people to care for and accept one another.

◆ **Newcomers and Visitors** ◆

Welcome to Melrose United Church!  
Please feel free to fill in the form in the Welcome Binder located by the Name Tag boxes which are located on the tables by the east doors on each side of the chancel steps.

◆ **Melrose Events** ◆

◆ **Worship with us Next Year!** ◆

Celebrate the first Sunday of Christmas and ring in the New Year of 2018 on December 31st with worship at 10:30 a.m. in the Melrose

chapel that will take the form of a "New Year Levée featuring more festive carols, readings, laughter and some comforting hot cider. Be sure to join us!

◆ **Thank you** ◆

...to our December coffee hosts – Barb and Keith Mann



◆ **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.

<b><u>MELROSE CALENDAR</u></b>		
<b>Monday - December 25</b>		
<b>Merry Christmas! Building and Office Closed</b>		
<b>Tuesday - December 26</b>		
<b>Building and Office Closed</b>		
<b>Wednesday-Friday - December 27-29</b>		
<b>Office Closed - Limited Custodial Hours: 8am-3pm</b>		
<b>Saturday - December 30</b>		
<b>Sunday - December 31</b>		
<b>Melrose Choir Practice Melrose Worship</b>	<b>9:40 a.m. 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Chapel Sanctuary</b>
<b>Monday – January 1</b>		
<b>Happy New Year! Building and Office Closed Big Book</b>	<b>7:00p.m.</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>Tuesday - January 2</b>		
<b>Melrose Office Closed Return to regular Custodial Hours Bach Elgar Rehearsal Tai Chi</b>	<b>7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Auditorium Parlour</b>
<b>Wednesday - January 3</b>		
<b>Melrose Office Return to regular hours Carpet Bowling</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bowling Area</b>