

◆ 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 ◆



Second Sunday *of* Advent

Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner
Music Director:	Alexander Cann
Family Ministries Coordinator:	Meg Chalmers
Custodian:	Kevin Geluch
Office Administrator:	Michelle Millson

◆ **Sunday, December 9, 2018** ◆
Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018 ◆
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - PEACE

* indicates a time to stand, if you are able
congregational responses are in boldface type

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE – Partitas I and II from *O God, thou faithful God!* J.S. Bach

INTROIT – How Should I Fitly Meet Thee? J.S. Bach

* OPENING HYMN – *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying* VU 18

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: Christ is coming!

All: Valleys will be filled and mountains will be made low!

One: Christ is coming!

**All: The crooked shall be made straight
and the rough ways will be made smooth!**

One: Christ is coming!

All: All flesh shall see the salvation of God!

One: Friends in Christ, we have work to do.

All: Let us prepare the way of the Lord.

One: Come, let us worship God.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (PEACE)

*candle lit by Penelope Ferrie, Debora Miscione, Margaret Morison and
Doreen McKerracher*

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

**All: Jesus Christ, whose birth we await,
calls our community to justice
and leads us in the way of peace.**

One: Our community is forgiving.

We call one another to honesty and humility
and respond to each other with abundant grace.

**All: Our community values relationships.
We seek to live in harmony with one another
even when we disagree,
and strive to glorify God in everything we do.**

One: Our community longs for unity.

We work together with other churches and organizations,
and live out God's reconciling love for all the world to see.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's peace in the world.

(The second candle is lit)

SONG— *A Candle is Burning*

VU6 (Verse 2)

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.*

*While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN – *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

VU 10

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

SOLO – Prepare thyself Zion
soloist: Chris Palmer, baritone

J. S. Bach

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Dianne Coons

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH (sung together)

VU 901

WISDOM OF ISRAEL – Malachi 3: 1-4

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL – Luke 3: 1-6

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

* HYMN – *Love Us into Fullness*

MV 81

SERMON: “Fire and Soap”

ANTHEM – Christ Came to Bethlehem

V.C. Johnson

cello: Saskia Johnson

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN – *Joy Is Now in Every Place*

VU 45

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said by all)

**We bring these gifts--
the work of our hands,**

our hearts, our lives.

**We pray that they may be used
to bring the hope and peace of Jesus Christ
to our world in this time and place.**

**For our prayer is that your kingdom come,
your will be done, now and always. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

concluded by the Prayer of Jesus

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 - *Hail to God's Own Anointed*

VU 30

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE -

VU 423 Vs. 1

*God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again!*

POSTLUDE-First movement, exposition, *Waldstein Sonata*

L. van Beethoven

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.

♦ Worship Next Week ♦

On Advent's third Sunday, we light the candle of joy. This is the Advent Sunday commonly called "*Gaudete*", from the Latin word for *Rejoice* – the first word of the ancient Introit for Advent III ("Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice"). The sermon time will focus on a passage from the prophet Zephaniah (Zeph. 3: 14-20). The Book of Zephaniah is set in the reign of King Josiah, Israel's reforming monarch (640-609 BCE). In the context of Josiah's reign, God's presence is disturbing: it upsets the complacency, hypocrisy and the faithless habits of the people. The final oracle of the book, however shifts into the tone of joy with the arrival of God's presence bringing celebration. It is a reversal of the judgment that the rest of the book has led us to expect: "Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, God has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more" (Zephaniah 3:14b-15). The arrival of God's presence dispels fear and opens the door to a new future.

◆ **Thank you...** ◆

Thank you to coffee hosts this month *Barb and Keith Mann*.

◆ **2019 Offering Envelopes Now Available!** ◆

2019 Offering envelopes are now available for pickup in the church office. They will also be out in the parlour for the next 3 weeks. 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.

◆ **Advent at Melrose** ◆

Do you have neighbours, friends or family that you think may enjoy joining us during the Advent Season at Melrose? Consider sharing with them the green insert from today's service. If you would like additional copies contact the office for arrangements.

◆ **Light in the December Darkness** ◆

Christmas is not always the merriest time of the year. If you, or someone you know is having a difficult time this year consider joining us December 19 for the Light in the December Darkness Service. Printed invitations are available in the church office.

◆ **Help Needed** ◆

Donations of cookies, squares and treats are needed for the candlelight carol service on December 16th. Help is also needed with set up, serving and cleanup for the reception after the service. If you are able to help please contact Kathy Ross.

◆ **Social Justice Announcement** ◆

The social Justice/outreach committee is asking for **congregational donations of socks (male and female), soap, and face cloths**. We are collecting for seniors in the Dundas Retirement Home. Many of these people have no family or friends to support their Christmas

and many have very limited income to purchase necessary hygiene products.

Last year we supported 8 people from this home. This year we were presented with a list of 30 folk! We are not turning anyone down. Please consider the purchase of socks, soap and facecloths. Please bring them to the church office by Dec 15th. For further information on this outreach please talk to Gwyneth, Penelope or Denise or Sharon!

Thanks so much for your support.

◆ **WrapAround Christmas Assistance** ◆

Thank you so much for all of your generous support this year!!! Together with WrapAround Hamilton's Open Closet in Room 1 we have helped many neighbours with housewares, bedding, clothing, outerware, school supplies, toys and gift cards. Through our work with our WrapAround families we have discovered that many of them will need more help than the Food Banks and other services/charities can provide. We are hoping to gather some gift cards and stocking stuffers for these families. Donations may be brought in to the Church Office during business hours or you can call or speak to Libby Cook

◆ **A car full of caring** ◆

Thanks to everyone at Melrose for their donations of food and toys for Wesley Urban Ministries. Last Sunday Gwyn's VW Passat Wagon was completely **full** of Melrose's caring donations! **Full to the Brim!** Thanks to the Melrose Kids who packed the car too! All donations were taken on Dec 2 to Pioneer United Church where the distribution of food and toys will take place in the next few weeks.

◆ **Melrose United Church Cookbook!** ◆

Yes - finally a cookbook is being created! The cookbook team will be reaching out to everyone at Melrose to contribute their favourite recipes. Please start looking in your recipe files for recipes to share. There is a lot of cooking /eating history at Melrose; so bring out

those memories! The Team will be handing out recipe templates in the next few weeks for everyone to write down their recipes. We hope to have the cookbook available by March 2019. This is a fundraiser for Melrose! Send recipes to recipesformelrose@gmail.com.

Please have your recipes sent to us by Dec 20.

◆ Upcoming Special Events ◆

Youth Event - TODAY - Christmas baking, lunch and festive movies - talk to Meg for more info

WIT Special Christmas Event - Dec @ 6:15pm- All are welcome! Bring a potluck dish to share and a hygiene item for donation. Special guest speakers Rev. Jeff Chalmers and a rep. from the Bridge will present on the Bridge Prison Ministry. See poster in hallway for more info.

Melrose TGIF - Dec 14th - Join us for a potluck, Christmas games and ornament decorating.

Candlelight Carol Service - December 16th @ 7pm - Join us for lessons and carols by candlelight.

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – December 10

Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Parlour
LeapYear Education	5:30 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
Brownies and Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Norman Slater Room
Trustee/Finance Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Nursery

Tuesday - December 11

Martial Arts Class	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Ancaster U12 Soccer	6:30 p.m.	Gym
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium, Sanctuary
Tai Chi	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
Pick up Basketball	7:45 p.m.	Gym

Wednesday - December 12

Duet Club of Hamilton Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
Siva Yoga	10:30 a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
West Hamilton U12 Soccer	7:00 p.m.	Gym
Resource Management Committee	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

Thursday - December 13

Melrose Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Chapel
Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
RSDCS Dancing Class	1:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Pilates	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
English Country Dancing	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Friday – December 14

Bookmobile: HPL	10:00 a.m.	Parking Lot
LLH Event	4:00 p.m.	Aud., Kitchen
TGIF	6:30 p.m.	Aud., Kitchen, Parlour

Saturday - December 15

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Sunday – December 16

Melrose Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30a.m.	Sanctuary
Melrose Candlelight Carol Service	7:00 p.m. (10)	Sanctuary

