

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator: Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Kevin Geluch

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ Sunday, January 6, 2019 ◆
Epiphany

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019 ◆
EPIPHANY

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT -As With Gladness Men of Old arr. W.H. Munk

* OPENING HYMN - *The First Nowell* VU 91

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of 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

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: Margaret Duff

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 72 (Parts Two and Three) VU 790

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL – 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 Jesus Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY: “Kings of Distant Shores” z

ANTHEM – How Brightly Beams the Morning Star P. Nicolai

◆ **SERVICE OF THE TABLE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

* OFFERING HYMN – *When A Star is Shining*

VU 97

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said by 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.**

CELEBRATION 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*

MV 203

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!

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,* **MV 204**
 Christ will come again!
 Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
 Christ will come again!

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

The Peace

Let us greet one another in the name of Christ.

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

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 be 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.)*

Communion Solo - Allana Stevenson, soprano

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 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 ♦

Next Sunday is the day aside in the liturgical calendar to celebrate and consider Jesus' baptism. The Gospel of Luke's version of this story describes the Spirit of God descending on Jesus in the form of a dove, then pronouncing and affirming that he is God's Beloved Child. Nevertheless, this is a blessing and not the final story in Jesus' personal and spiritual growth. Luke's Jesus is one of us: fully human and seeking a tangible sign of his vocation. His opening of himself to God's vision for his life is a response to God's movements of illumination and grace in his life. Shaped by divine providence from childhood, Jesus responded freely to the graces he had received and went on to share God's vision, energy and power for the wholeness and salvation of all humankind. But God is also constantly choosing each of us -- so worship this Sunday will also offer an opportunity

for us to re-affirm our "yes" to the love that gives us light and life.

◆ **Thank you...** ◆

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

◆ **Paul G. Philp Memorial Service** ◆

A service to honor the late Paul G. Philp will be held at Melrose on Wednesday January 9 at 11am with a reception to follow in the auditorium. Paul was a member of the Melrose community prior to their move to Southhampton, Ontario several years ago. The obituary notice is posted in the hallway outside the church office.

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

If you have yet to pick up your 2019 Offering envelopes they are now available 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.

◆ **Annual Report is coming...** ◆

If you are required to submit a report for the annual Melrose report you will have received a reminder email earlier this week. Please remember to send in all reports by Friday January 25th.

◆ **Next Steps: Congregational Survey** ◆

As you know, the United Church of Canada (UCC) is undergoing significant restructuring effective January 1st, with changes to many of its processes. We have now been able to clarify some important aspects related to moving out of Interim Ministry, which will occur at the end of June, 2019. As part of the UCC's new pastoral relations process, what was formerly a Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) report is replaced by a Community of Faith profile. Responsibility for this lies with "the governing body of the community of faith", which in the case of Melrose is the Official

Board. The Board understands that key to developing that profile is broad consultation with the congregation regarding our future direction and what we are looking for in a search process. To that end, the Official Board strongly encourages all who are connected to Melrose to provide us with input and complete a congregational survey. This survey will be able to be completed electronically and returned to the church office via email, or in paper format and either mailed to the office or returned to a survey drop box which will be located in the auditorium. The survey will be available starting Sunday, December 23rd, and the deadline for response is January 20th. In addition, there will be opportunities for "fireside chats" with the Board after the church service on January 20th and 27th. If you have any questions, please feel free to connect with any member of the Board, or contact me directly by email: cheryl.rn@sympatico.ca.

Many thanks and Happy New Year everyone!

Cheryl Evans, Chair, Official Board

◆ **Let's boost our online presence!** ◆

Do you have any fun Melrose news to share?!? Let the office know! The office staff are always looking for ideas for content to share on our social media and website. Keep the office informed of upcoming events and news. Let's all stay informed! Another great part of keeping our online content current is we can easily share info with family and friends. Please send any content to melrose@melroseunited.ca.

Thanks!

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – January 7

Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
LeapYear Education	5:30 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
Brownies and Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Norman Slater Room
Melrose Official Board	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

Tuesday - January 8

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 - January 9

Funeral: Chief Justice Paul G. Philp	11:00 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

Thursday - January 10

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 – January 11

Duet Club of Hamilton Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
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Saturday - January 12

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Sunday – January 13

Melrose Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30a.m.	Sanctuary
Melrose Worship Committee	12:00 p.m.	Auditorium