

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:	The Rev. Sonia Ireson
Music Director:	Alexander Cann
Family Ministries Coordinator:	Meg Chalmers
Custodian:	Kevin Geluch
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◆ Sunday, January 12, 2020 ◆

The Baptism of Jesus

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020 ◆
THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT – Create in me, O God, a Pure Heart J. Brahms

* OPENING HYMN – *At the Name of Jesus* VU 335

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We seek to reflect the light of Jesus Christ

All: We are to be beacons of light, not living in shadows, but out front revealing to the world that Jesus is alive in our midst.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As Jesus came out of the water, a voice from the skies said,

All: “This is my son, my beloved, with whom I am very pleased. Listen to him!”

One: as Jesus sat at the table, he said to those gathered around,

All: “You are my friends, for I have told you everything God has told me.”

One: At the font and at the table, we meet Christ.

In the church and in the world, we meet Christ.

In our tears and in our laughter, we meet Christ.

All: In the sacraments, in the love, in the meeting, in this community, we worship God.

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

Rejoice, for we are people of God. We have come to celebrate new life.

There are signs of new possibilities all around us.

Welcoming God, you have called us to rejoice at a baby's new birth, to celebrate at the milestones in one another's lives, and to come alongside each other through the various passages of life.

You are with us in all the circumstances of life. You rejoice as we revel in joy and mourn as we grieve in sadness. We are comforted and assured by that awareness. Be with us this day as we welcome Mason, Quinlan and Morgan into our community of faith and help these children to know that they are loved and

cherished in this community of yours. In the name of the welcoming Christ, we pray. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN - *A Little Child the Saviour Came*

VU 445

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Statement of purpose

One: Today, on our church calendar year, we celebrate our Lord's Baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. We are also pleased to be celebrating two baptisms and a renewal of baptismal faith.

**All come forward who are participating in the baptisms.

Invitation to Baptism

One: We remember Jesus' tenderness and regard for little children. Mark 10:13-16 tells us that "People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might bless them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it." And Jesus took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them."

Presentation of the Candidates for Baptism

Libby Cook, Chair of Worship Committee

One: On behalf of Melrose United Church, I present Mason William DeCiantis, son of Katherin and Michael DeCiantis, and Quinlan Sylvia Ruby Campbell, daughter of Constance and Wade Campbell - for baptism into the body of Christ.

I also present Morgan Anne June Campbell, daughter of Constance and Wade Campbell for renewal of her baptismal faith.

Profession of Faith and Commitment of Parents

One: Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus Christ, love incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

Parents: I do, by the grace of God.

One: Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

Parents: I will, God being my helper.

Will you share your faith with Mason, and Quinlan growing with them in faith, hope, and love, encouraging them in the way of Jesus?

Parents: I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment

One: Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

All: As a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the community of faith.

One: May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

All: Amen.

A New Creed (said by all):

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh

To reconcile and make new,

Who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,

To live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Act of Baptism

One: Gracious and Holy God,

We bless you for the gift of life,

And, within it, the gift of water.

Over its unshaped promise your

Spirit hovered at creation.

By water, comes the growth of the earth.

Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.
Nurtured in the waters of Mary's womb,
Your Child Jesus was birthed.
In the waters of Jordan
Your Child Jesus was baptized.
Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do,
That this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in
whose name we pray.

All: Amen.

One: (Mason William DeCiantis) (Quinlan Sylvia Ruby Campbell)

- we baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

One: (Mason William DeCiantis) (Quinlan Sylvia Ruby Campbell)
- child of God, I mark you with the sign of the cross, from this day forward, you bear the symbol of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Question of Parents of Morgan Anne June Campbell: Will you continue to nurture Morgan in the Christian faith according to her baptismal vows?

We will, God being our helper and guide.

One: Morgan Anne June Campbell - I ask you to remember your baptismal faith.

- do you choose to be one who walks with God, who lives in kindness, love and justice, following in the way of Jesus Christ.

■ -- I do, God being my helper.

One: O God, we know your will for us is health and wholeness. We trust that you walk with us always. We believe that you reveal your goodness in those who are called according to your will.

Today we rejoice that your Spirit has touched the life of Morgan renewing her faith and rekindling her love for you.

This water is a reminder of the covenant her parents have made with you. And your blessing remains upon her all the days of her life. (marked with the sign of the cross)

Amen.

Lighting of the Baptismal Candles and presentation of Prayer Shawl, and Baptismal Certificate

One: May the stories of our faith support and encourage all of you as you grow in your relationship with God. And may your prayer shawl remind you that you are wrapped in God's love and care all your life.

Presentation of Mason, Quinlan and Morgan to Melrose United Church Congregation.

All return to their seats.

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

~~Reader: Callan and Eirick Yates~~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 29

VU 756

WISDOM OF ISRAEL – Isaiah 42: 1-9

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 3: 13-17

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour.

* HYMN – *O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word*

VU 84

SERMON: “A Beloved Child of God!”

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING

* OFFERING HYMN – *In Gratitude and Humble Trust*

VU 544

OFFERING PRAYER (said together)

Humbly we come, O God, offering gifts out of love.

You have blessed us with the gift of your Son.

Bless us now that we may use these gifts,

And ourselves to follow the path Jesus trod

To become faithful disciples,

Spirit-led and Jesus-called. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

concluded by the Prayer of Jesus

All: 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 for for ever. Amen.**

★ CLOSING HYMN – *Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design* VU 623

COMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE – Amen, Amen, Amen VU 973

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 guest book in the narthex. After service we join together in the church parlour for refreshments and fellowship. Kids are welcome to hang out in the Children's corner at the front of the church during service and join the children's programming in the auditorium after Children's Time.

Children are also always welcome to stay in the sanctuary for the entire service if they choose.

◆ **Worship Next Week** ◆

Next week we again read in our scripture about the baptism of Jesus from the perspective of the Gospel of John. But then it continues to be a story of the first two called disciples - Andrew (who was a disciple of John) and his brother, Simon Peter.

This is the third in a series of ten Sundays that celebrates the fact that God is manifest (epiphany) in the human being, Jesus through incarnation.

It is suggested that the baby in the manger is not enough to encounter the divinity of Jesus, thus it continues with the magi who come from a far off land to worship him as king, followed by Jesus walking into the Jordan for baptism and the declaration that "this is my beloved son." Then we move to Jesus' encounter with Andrew and Simon Peter as he asks "What are you looking for?"

John is setting the stage for Jesus as present in God from the beginning. The proof of his divine birth is recognized across the world; his baptism is sanctioned and he is named as God's son; his ministry begins in the calling of his disciples. The next seven Sundays will follow the same pattern of confirmation of his divine authority.

◆ Thank you... ◆

Thank you to coffee hosts today – Barb and Keith Mann

◆ 2020 Offering Envelopes Now Available! ◆

2020 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.

◆ Prayer Shawl and Outreach Ministry ◆

Join us on Saturday Jan 25 in the church parlour for fellowship, tea, coffee and a snack. Wool, knitting needles, crochet hooks and patterns are supplied. The finished projects are blessed during a church service and distributed to members and friends of the congregation during times of sickness and struggle or times of joy like the birth of a child or graduation from high school.

◆ Upcoming Office Closure ◆

Please note that Michelle will not be in from January 13-17. During this time office emails and messages will not be checked. For urgent building concerns Kevin Geluch will be available. Building hours will remain as normal.



◆ **Annual Report Deadline** ◆

Please note that all reports and submissions for the annual report is January 26. This is a firm deadline in order to allow for editing and production of the final report. A copy of each committee's submission from last year was sent out by email on January 3. If you have any questions please check in with Michelle in the church office.

Have you been
thinking about
joining Melrose?

become a member!

Melrose United Church

A number of people have expressed interest and we are planning to receive members at a service in the coming months. Membership includes perks like coffee, fellowship, spiritual guidance, a gymnasium in the basement and more.**

If you are interested please connect with the church office or Rev. Sonia Ireson.

****membership is totally not required for any of this.
It might make it more fun though.**

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – January 13

Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Parlour
Bowling	1:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
Brownies, Guides	6:00 p.m..	Auditorium, Gym

Tuesday - January 14

Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley

Wednesday - January 15

Duet Club of Hamilton	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Mindfulness Group	5:30 p.m.	Parlour
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	N. S. Room
Resource Management Comm.	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Pickup Basketball	7:45 p.m.	Gym

Thursday - January 16

R.S.D.C.S. Class	1:00 p.m.	N.S. Room
Bowling	1:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
English Country Dancing	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Yoga Evening Group	7: 00 p.m.	N.S. Room
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley

Friday - January 17

Executive Meeting WrapAround	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
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Saturday - January 18

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Sunday - January 19

Melrose Choir Practice	9:50 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship: Pageant	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary