

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:

Rev. Sonia Ireson

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Kevin Geluch

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ **Sunday, January 5, 2020** ◆
The Visit of the Magi

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020 ◆
THE VISIT OF THE MAGI

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

INTROIT – Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

M. Praetorius, VU 8

* OPENING HYMN – *As with Gladness Men of Old*

VU 81

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Jesus comes amongst us as a stranger.

All: We will remember him in our acts of kindness as we spread his light to the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have just come through the season of Advent, when we received the gift of hope, peace, joy and love.

A long, long time ago, the magi gave valuable material gifts to Jesus, and in return received the gift of a dream that led them on to a new path.

All: What gifts from God are we willing to receive?

One: Then, will we be willing to bring Jesus' gifts with us into this worship today and into the New Year ahead?

All: Come, let us give it a try!

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

Gracious God, blessed are we

Who come to humble ourselves before you.

**Blessed are we,
Who acknowledge that we do not know everything.
Blessed are we,
Who yearn for your restorative love.
We come together today to be attentive to your presence, to receive and
delight in your Word and in the teachings of Jesus.
Blessed are we, as we worship you,
Our Gracious God. Amen.**

WELCOME AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

★ HYMN – *We Three Kings*

*1. 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 light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

*2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.*

(Refrain)

*3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.*

(Refrain)

*4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;*

*sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
(Refrain)*

*5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.
(Refrain)*

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Sylvia Chitty

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 72, Parts 1 & 2

VU 790

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 Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM – How Brightly Beams the Morning Star

P. Nicolai, VU 98

SERMON – “God’s Design”

* HMYN – *Welcome, Jesus, You Are Welcome*

MV 137

◆ RESPONSE ◆

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

★ OFFERTORY HYMN – *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery* VU 93 v. 4
*When heaven's bright with mystery and stars lead an unknown way,
When love still lights a gentle path where courts of power can hold no sway,
There with the Magi, let us kneel, our gifts to share, God's world to heal.*

OFFERING PRAYER (said by all)

**Come, O Holy One, be our light. Come O Sovereign One, be our guide.
Receive our gifts. They are the work of our hands and the commitment
of our hearts. We bring not gold but money. We bring not
frankincense but our devotion. We bring not myrrh but our lifelong
dedication. May we serve, through these gifts, with confidence and
humility. 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 – *In the Bleak Midwinter*

VU 55

COMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE - Amen, Amen, Amen

VU 973



You are invited!

COVENANTING SERVICE

Sunday, January 19, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

at Melrose United Church

to mark the Ministry covenant between

the Rev. Sonia Ireson,

the congregation of the Melrose Pastoral Charge &

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

the United Church of Canada

Presider: the Rev. Lynn Godfrey



◆ **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 celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. The heavens opened and a voice cried out, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

At this point, Jesus was already an adult and just about to begin his ministry. Today, we are enacting the sacrament of Baptism with two children and a renewal of baptismal faith with another - DeCiantis and Campbell families. This represents the beginning of a life long journey and relationship with God, not just a one-time event. In baptism, the individual is welcomed into the community of faith and is also able to be part of the second sacrament of communion.

At the age of 13, the child is encouraged to further grow in their faith by taking part in Confirmation classes which teach about the Trinity, prayer, social justice issues, and the role of the church. The learning is still not over; it continues into adulthood with a deepening relationship individually and in community with Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit.

◆ **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. Copies of each committee's previous year's submission were sent out by email on January 3. If you have any questions please check in with Michelle in the church office.

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.

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.**

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MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – January 6

Bowling	1:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
HPP	5:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Brownies, Guides	6:00 p.m.	Auditorium, Gym
Melrose Official Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Tuesday - January 7

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 8

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

Thursday - January 9

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 10

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Saturday - January 11

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Sunday - January 12

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

