

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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◆ **Sunday, December 8, 2019** ◆
Second Sunday of Advent

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019 ◆
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT - O Adonay, from the Springfield Antiphonal, 13th C.

* OPENING HYMN -*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* VU 25

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We sit in a world that awaits the coming of the Blessed Saviour.

All: Yet, we know the Saviour is already here. The light of Christ remains even while we await with anticipation the renewal of Advent joy.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today is the second Sunday of Advent.

All: Today is the day we light a candle for peace.

One: Peace - much needed in our world!

All: This is one of the reasons we have come... to bring our longing for peace: for our world, for ourselves, and for those we love.

One: A part of our Advent waiting is waiting for peace.

All: We are waiting to welcome the One who is the Prince of Peace - Jesus.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Candle of Hope)

candle lit by: The Clase Family (Catherine, Michael, Jonathan and Imogen)

One: In this season of expectant waiting, we fear the conflict all around us

All: As we long for peace.

One: So many wars. So much destruction.

Too many deaths. Too much loss.

So much money wasted. So many lives spent. Too much tragedy spread.

All: God's goodness commands us to work for peace.

One: We revere the goodness that celebrates uniqueness, that enlivens pleasure, that preserves treasures between strangers, between friends, between enemies.

All: As we come close to each other, we notice in each face the reason for harmony – while peace flames into resolve.

(first and second Advent candle are lit)

HYMN: *Hope is a Star*

VU 7 verse 2

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,

Giving a promise of safety and worth.

When God is a child there's joy in our song .

*The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.*

PRAYER (said by all)

Ever-faithful God, once again we begin our hopeful journey to Bethlehem. We reflect back over many years, our own as well as those of our ancestors. We seek peace, we seek joy, we seek love; but we are not always able to find them. Today, we pray that your Spirit will fill us with the confident expectation that

your promises will be fulfilled. Help us to do our part in bringing hope peace, Amen.

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

* HYMN – *Down to Earth, as a Dove* VU 42

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

Reader: Heather Clark

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 72 Parts 1 & 3 VU 790

WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Isaiah 11: 1-10

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 3: 1-12

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

All: Praise to you, Christ, our Saviour.

* HYMN – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* VU 8

SERMON: “Warm up Band!”

BAPTISMAL RENEWAL

Liturgy for Baptism Renewal

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

One: Today, on this second Sunday of Advent, we have listened again to the story of John the Baptist and his call to people

to turn their lives around.

At various times in our lives we have the opportunity to reaffirm and renew the faith proclaimed in our baptism. As those who have been baptized, we profess our faith as part of the Christian Community.

We gather to reaffirm the power of the Holy Spirit in which we have been nurtured and gifted.

All: With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate the faith we all share and rededicate ourselves to the life and work of Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

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

All: I do, by the Grace of God.

COMMITMENT TO SEEK JUSTICE AND RESIST EVIL

One: Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

All: I will, God being my helper.

COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW JESUS AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

One: Will you, together with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith celebrate God's presence, and commit to follow Jesus as we love and serve others?

All: I will, God being my helper.

**Please come forward to the font, dip your hand into the water and the minister will mark you on the forehead with the sign of the cross.

When all have returned to their seats...

PRAYER AFTER

All: O God, your will for us is health and wholeness and we trust that you walk with us always. On this day, we remember our baptism, and reconfirm our desire to continue to walk in your ways. May we grow in love for you and your people, as we preserve and protect all of your creation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

ANTHEM -What Sweeter Music?

J. Rutter

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

INVITATION TO OFFERING

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

★ OFFERTORY HYMN -*What Child is This?*

VU 74 verse 3

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.*

*The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone
him.*

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels
sings.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said by all)

For all that we are, thank you God of love.

For all that we have, thank you Amen., God of love.

For all that we are becoming, Thank you, God of love.

Now and Forever.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

(concluding with the Prayer of Jesus, said together)

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 - *Once in Royal David's City*

VU 62

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE - *Amen, Amen, Amen*

VU 967

POSTLUDE

Moderator's Advent Message 2019

Transcript of Videotaped Message

Christ's peace be with you!

My name is Richard Bott. I'm the Moderator of The United Church of Canada.

I'm a pretty fair cook. I have a lot of fun opening up the fridge, seeing what I have inside and coming up with combinations that, hopefully, go together. Most of the time, I don't do too badly.

But not so with baking. Baking is my downfall. It doesn't matter how close I stay to the recipe, how exact I am in setting the temperature of the oven, how fresh my ingredients are...my cookies never taste (or feel) quite like I think they should.

They're just not like the ones Mom makes.

I'm starting to wonder, though, if that's a problem with my baking—or if it's a problem with my memory. There's no bottle labelled "nostalgia" in my spice rack. The "Ghost of Christmas Cookies Past" may be getting in the way of my Christmas Cookies Present.

There are some things in my faith life that may have the same issue. As we look towards the season of Christmas, it's often a time filled with patterns and habits and traditions and—sometimes—a sense that it's not quite...right. Not quite what it used to feel like. Not quite what we're expecting.

That feeling is part of the reason I appreciate the season we're about to enter—the season of Advent. We sometimes think of this season as a time of waiting or a time of preparation. I think it's also a season of unwrapping. Not necessarily the unwrapping of things new, but the unwrapping of things old. It's like getting the box of decorations out of the closet and remembering where each came from and what they mean now, as they're hung on the tree.

For me, Advent is a time to do that with my faith, as well—to pull out some of the things that are dear to me, to carefully shake off the dust, and to see them in the light of our life here and now.

For the past few years, the folks at General Council Office have put together practices they call [Advent Unwrapped](#). You can find more information about it through the link on The United Church of Canada website [www.united-church.ca/worship-theme/advent-unwrapped], or at the Advent Unwrapped Facebook page. This year, through writings and videos, and with two different Advent calendars—one for more contemplative prayer, the other focused on action—the faith question we are being invited to unwrap is, "Who is Jesus?"

I know I'm planning on taking part. I hope you'll consider joining in.

This Advent, as we get ready for all that is to come, let's take some time to unwrap—and let's find what God has packaged up for us to find.

◆ **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 Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The theme is JOY. Our Scripture in Matthew involves commentary and questions between Jesus and John the Baptist. "Are you the Messiah," John asks, "or should we keep looking?" Imagine throughout the ages how many have asked that same question. Seekers are desperate to make that special connection and are filled with Joy when they receive their answer. John's query and hesitancy mirrors our own fleeting doubts. How we long for certainty.

Jesus responds reassuringly – “tell them what you have seen and heard” – that is our ongoing commission – to tell what we have seen and heard, and to live as people who have been shepherded into the light. Jesus follows up by giving the highest recommendation of John the Baptist as the greatest of all who have ever lived.

◆ **Light in the December Darkness** ◆

A quiet worship service of hope for those who are sad, grieving, lonely or weary. If you, or someone you know if having a difficult time this year consider joining us December 18 for the Light in the December Darkness Service. Printed invitations are available in the church office.



Melrose Mistletoe Bazaar 2019

THANK YOU

to all involved at the Bazaar on November 23rd
cookie bakers, crafters, soup & pie makers, cafe servers, gourmet
gurus,
jewellery & books & "Xmas past" donors and
Volunteers!!!

The success of this event is because of
ALL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT!!

Funds raised at the 2019 Mistletoe Bazaar OVER \$7600!!
Melrose United Church is so grateful to ALL

◆ A very special thank you ◆

Heartfelt thanks to all the bakers for your contributions to the Cookie Walk! The tables were bountiful with multiple varieties of sugar and spice that amazed and delighted our patrons. Melrose remains *the Best* Cookie Walk in town! Thank you!

December
WTT
**Potluck
dinner**

featuring a guest speaker from

The Period Purse

DECEMBER 11 | 6:15 PM

PLEASE BRING A POTLUCK DISH
TO SHARE AND A LIGHTLY USED
PURSE TO SUPPORT
THE PERIOD PURSE

Made with PosterMyWall.com



◆ **Volunteers Needed -**

Candlelight Carol Service Reception Dec 15 ◆

A request for donations of cookies and/or squares would be very much appreciated. Requesting volunteers for the following-

1. Setup- minimum of 3

2. During reception-refilling trays of cookies, squares- 3-4 people
3. Cleanup- minimum of 4

Please speak with Kathy Ross as soon as possible after church, or contact Michelle in the church office. Thanks very much for your support!

◆ **Thank you...** ◆

Thank you to coffee hosts today – Cheryl Evans, Patti Varey & Pam and Ken Holden.

◆ **2020 Offering Envelopes Now Available!** ◆

2020 Offering envelopes are now available for pickup in the church office. They will also be out in the parlour Sundays after church until Christmas. 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.

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – December 9

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

Tuesday - December 10

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

Wednesday - December 11

Pilates	9:30 a.m.	N. S. Room
Women in Touch	6:15 p.m.	Parlour
Pickup Basketball	7:45 p.m.	Gym

Thursday - December 12

LLH Yoga Class	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
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
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley

Friday - December 13

LLH Event	4:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Parent's Night Out	6:15 p.m.	Parlour, Aud., Kitchen

Saturday - December 14

Private Event		Parlour
Melrose Choir Practice	2:00 p.m.	Chapel
Tom Schilling	7:00 p.m.	Chapel

Sunday – December 15

Melrose Choir Practice	9:50 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Melrose Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.	Chapel
Melrose Candlelight Carol Service	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary