

◆ **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 ◆



Minister:

Music Director:

Family Ministries

Coordinator:

Custodian:

Office Administrator:

Rev. Sonia Ireson

Alexander Cann

Meg Chalmers

Kevin Geluch

Michelle Millson

◆ **Sunday, December 1, 2019** ◆
First Sunday of Advent

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019 ◆
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

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

* OPENING HYMN - *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VU 1 (verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We await the One who is coming, the Word made flesh

**All: A light will shine in our darkness as we eagerly anticipate
the Christ Child.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of the Way, come in from the cold to hear God's
word.

**All: We give laud and honour to Jesus, the Christ, the Word
made flesh.**

One: Our Advent brings us closer to Bethlehem.

**All: We are called to witness the miracle found in the stable
where all are invited.**

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

**All: May we approach Advent this season as if it were our first-
ever Advent. May we come to God new and vulnerable, with
open and willing hearts, ready for fresh insights. May we find
Jesus wherever there is distress and rely on the Holy Spirit to
be with us in every step of our Advent Journey. Amen.**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Candle of Hope)

candle lit by: Dianne and Rodger Coons

One: In this season of expectant waiting we wonder

All: and we hope.

One: So many marvels. So much that confounds us. So much that is unique. So much richness. So many things we can touch, taste, smell, see, hear.

All: Hope rises within us.

One: Look at life, abundant in growing complexities and with bewildering intricacies. Look at the variety! Look how they work together – connected.

All: Hope bubbles to the surface.

One: We bask in wonder at God's creativity, at blessings showered abundantly.

All: While hope flames into promise.

(first Advent candle is lit)

HYMN: *Hope is a Star*

VU 7 verse 1

Hope is a star that shines in the night,

Leading us on till the morning is bright.

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.

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

STORY: The Black Dot

Reader: Jim Kraemer

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 122

VU 845

WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Isaiah 2: 1-5

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 17: 5-10

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

All: Praise to you, Christ, our Saviour.

★ HYMN – *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

VU 2

HOMILY: *“Return Engagement”*

ANTHEM –Rorate caeli

Palestrina

◆ **SERVICE OF THE TABLE** ◆

INVITATION TO OFFERING

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

★ OFFERTORY HYMN –*Welcome, Jesus, You are Welcome*

MV 137

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said by all)

All: God of Hope, thank you for Jesus. In our days leading up to celebration of the birth, we are reminded of all that we have been given in our lives – family, friends, shelter, food, entertainment – and how there are many that do not share in this abundance. Help us to be generous and kind and willing to share with those who are less fortunate. May our offerings we dedicate now be used to further the work of your kingdom in our small corner of the world. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

One: God *is* with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: In the rich dark of winter, God makes an astounding promise: "I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up." (Jeremiah 33:15) In the wilderness, a voice cries out, longing for the Refiner's fire, repair and renewal, the promised birth (and rebirth) of hope. Called to bear the weight and fruit of promise, Mary sings ancient trust – the song of generations – that God comes to fill the hungry and lift the humble. She sings that love and truth will meet, that Justice and peace will kiss.

All: In the midst of uncertainty, Jesus assures his disciples: just as the tree blooms, so the signs are clear that the kingdom of God is near. In the deep of our own winter, we look for them: bud of hope, branch of peace, sprig of joy, blossom of love.

One: While around us the snares of fear and conflict lie in wait of infant hope, you, O Wisdom, O Endless Love, O Radiant Dawn, are there, keeping vigil with us, in this season of expectation. We gather at this table, praying that crooked ways be made straight, that valley's peace be lifted up and mountain's might be brought low so that all God's people might rejoice together, singing:

**All Singing: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;
holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heav'n and earth are full,
full of your glory.**

VU 942

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

SHARING IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

(All are invited to share The Peace with one another)

A NEW CREED – Said together)

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.

One: We give thanks for the mystery and wonder revealed that first night, as humble people led by hope gathered in a quiet stable and were witness to your promise reborn. We give thanks for the blessing and love Jesus shared with all whom he met, in food and story.

All: We remember that, on the night before he was handed over to die, Jesus broke bread with his friends, blessed it, gave thanks, and said, "Take, eat, This is my body, which I give for you. When you share it, remember me."

(Bread is broken)

All: We remember that he took the cup and, giving thanks said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. When you drink it, remember me.:

(Cup is poured)

**All Singing: Christ has died, VU 943
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again**

One: Revealed in stable, cross and empty tomb, we give thanks, O God, for your limitless love for all. With your people of all times and places, we await with hope the fulfillment of your vision for all creation.

All: Bless us, O God, and these your gifts. Encourage us to share your life and love, which make us, and the gifts we share, truly holy.

One: Transform us, God, and your world and bless your children: those who feel alone or afraid.. those whose souls and homes are broken by violence... those who will go hungry, thirsty, and cold tonight... those who long only to hear that they are loved...

One: God make known in Jesus Christ,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:

All Singing: Amen, Amen, Amen. VU 943

Our Lord's Prayer

(Paraphrase by Richard Bott, B.C.)

Source of all life,

Divine Mother and Father of us all,

May your Name be held sacred by all creation.

May your kingdom and your will be lived here,

**As it is lived by that great communion of saints who have entered
your Household!**

I ask that what we need -

What we *really* need - would be provided.

**I ask that you would forgive me my sins - and - help me to forgive
the people who have sinned against me.**

Keep me from that which would break me completely.

**Help me to recognize and stand in the face of evil, knowing that you
hold me safe.**

***Yours* is the kingdom.**

***Yours* is the glory.**

Now and forever. Amen.

The Sharing of the Elements (by Intinction - bread and juice/wine-
bread is dipped in the cup)
(elements are served)

Communion Music: Ave Maria

M. Archer

The Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

**All: At this table, Christ is the host, welcoming all who hunger. At
our tables, may Christ be our guest this day and always, that
we might welcome hope, peace, joy and love into our lives and
become hosts to God's presence and people. Amen**

★ CLOSING HYMN - *Hark the Glad Sound*

VU 29

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE - *Amen, Amen, Amen*

VU 967

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 is the Second Sunday in Advent. The theme is Peace. We are looking at the scripture about John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness to set the stage for the coming of the Messiah.

I am sure people are curious about him – rather wild clothing and appearance, little need for the trappings of civilized life. His stern message urges the people to change their sinful ways. Yet, people come out in droves to hear him and then request baptism. He must have been a powerful speaker. He was openly critical of the religious leaders who he believed were all show and little substance, preferring to rely on their birthright rather than their own good deeds and piety. This will foreshadow difficulties he gets into later on.

In his humbleness, he points to the one who comes after – Jesus whose light outshines all others.

As you drift through your days in this Christmas season, harried and busy with shopping and preparations, take a moment to pause, breath, and ask

the Holy Spirit to give you the Peace of Jesus Christ – the peace that is beyond understanding, that will soothe and calm your troubled souls. And as Christians, we are asked to remember that the season of Christmas is first and foremost - the Season of “Christ.”

◆ **Thank you...** ◆

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

◆ **Mitten Tree** ◆

In the coming weeks we will be collecting hats, mittens and scarves for ADULTS in need here in Hamilton. Donations will be accepted and hung on the mitten tree until December 8th. That week the Social Justice Committee will distribute the items to local outreach groups.

◆ **White Gift Sunday** ◆

Collecting for White Gift Sunday will take place TODAY **December 1st**! For more info on the Wesley Christmas program and Christmas Store please visit www.wesley.ca

◆ **WrapAround Announcement** ◆

Wraparound Hamilton is looking for donations of bus tickets and grocery gift cards to help our families. Please contact Libby Cook if you are able to help.

◆ **Social Justice Outreach Committee** ◆

The Social Justice Outreach Committee is sponsoring the Christmas needs of senior citizens at the Dundas Retirement Home. We are in need of the following: Men’s Medium Underwear, Medium and Large Long Men’s Underwear, Size 9 and 10 Women’s Winter Boots, 3 bed covers or blankets for single size beds, Gently Used or New Large, Extra Large Men’s Pullover and Medium and Large Ladies Pullovers and Sweaters. Please bring to the church office by December 8th. Thanks in advance for your help!

◆ **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 is 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.

◆ **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.





Please join us for
**Candlelight
Carol Service**



Sunday, December 15, 2019
7:30 p.m.

*Join us for a special evening of
carol music led by the Melrose
Chancel Choir and Music
Director Alexander Cass*

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86 Homeowood Avenue, Hamilton
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MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – December 2

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

Tuesday - December 3

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 4

Duet Club of Hamilton Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.	Parlour N. S. Room
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Gym
Pickup Basketball	7:45 p.m.	

Thursday - December 5

Early ON Reg. Classes	9:00 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
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 - December 6

Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
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Saturday - December 7

Santa's Breakfast	9:30 a.m.	Auditorium
Bach Elgar Concert	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Sunday – December 8

Melrose Choir Practice	9:50 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Bach Elgar Sing a Long	2:00 p.m.	Sanctuary