

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Kevin Geluch

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ December 24, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. ◆

Christmas Eve Family Service

We celebrate the birth of the Christ Child

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ **Sunday, December 24, 2018** ◆

Christmas Eve Family Service

We celebrate the birth of the Christ Child

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

◆ All are welcome for coffee and conversation in the parlour after worship ◆

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

CAROLS IN THE GALLERY –

The Holly and the Ivy

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Il est né

* OPENING HYMN – *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

VU 60

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Be still this holy night.
Be still in this sacred place,
on this cold, dark night of great joy.
Be still and let your spirit stir.
We are in the presence of God.
Let the whole world celebrate.

All: Worship Christ, the newborn king!

LIGHTING OF THE NATIVITY CANDLE

Shari, Fred and Linda Saunders

(The three blue candles and pink candle are lit.)

One: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy;
for to you is born in the city of David
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord!

**All: Jesus has arrived in grace and mystery,
renewing faded hopes
and announcing peace to a weary world.**

One: Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favours!

**All: Jesus comes among us in power and glory
inspiring fresh Christmas joy
and calling us to lives that are full of God's love.**

One: Jesus, the light of the world, is born.

**All: Let Christ's light shine
in the darkest corners of our lives.
Let Christ's light shine
in the darkest corners of our world.
God is with us.**

(The white candle is lit)

Song: "A Candle is Burning"

VU6 (Verse 5)

*We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.*

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

★ HYMN – *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*

VU 75

Reader: Imogen and Jonathan Clase

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2: 1 - 14

* HYMN – *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

VU 48

STORYTIME with Meg – God Gave Us Christmas by Lisa Tawn Bergren

CHOIR ANTHEM– Away in a Manger

arr. D. Willcocks

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING SOLO – The Wexford Carol
Allana Stevenson, soprano

arr. R. Walters

* OFFERING HYMN – *Joy Is Now in Every Place*

VU 45

*Now and ever may we find
your good news to fill our mind:
peace and love to humankind,
hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said all together)

**Loving God, these are our gifts for your Son, Jesus.
May they be used to birth your love in the world
and bring peace to all people. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS (concluding with the Prayer of Jesus)

**All: 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, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN – *Joy to the World*

VU 59

* COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

* SHARING THE LIGHT

A LULLABY FOR THE CHRIST CHILD – *Silent Night*

VU 67

(please remain seated)

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,

Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Please blow out your candle before leaving the pew.

Ushers: Shari and Linda Saunders

Thank you: to Gillian Webster for her lovely cover print on
this evening's bulletin