

# ◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

905 522 1323 ◆ [melrose@melroseunited.ca](mailto:melrose@melroseunited.ca)

◆ [www.melroseunited.ca](http://www.melroseunited.ca) ◆

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Print by Gillian Webster

Minister:

Music Director:

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Custodian:

Office Administrator:

Rev. Sonia Ireson

Alexander Cann

Meg Chalmers

Kevin Geluch

Michelle Millson

◆ Sunday, December 29, 2019 ◆

First Sunday after Christmas

**MELROSE UNITED CHURCH**  
◆ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019 ◆  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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

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◆ **GATHERING** ◆

\* OPENING CAROL – *Joy to the World*

VU 59

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The Light of Christ has burst into our midst in spectacular fashion on Christmas morn.

**All: Our lives have been changed forever. Even though we remember this event as an annual celebration, we are aware that Christ's light never leaves us. The darkness has been pierced by the Light of the World.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come seeking something mysterious and fulfilling.

**All: May our weaknesses become strength,  
Our fears become courage,**

One: Our blindness and deafness become insight.

**All: We yearn to find Jesus, our savior, in our hearts, to find excitement in living in discipleship and purpose, to celebrate the good news as we prepare to live as disciples of Jesus.**

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)  
God who has come among us in hope  
In these shortening days  
When we lose touch with the light,  
Thank you for Jesus.

God of Peace,  
In these hectic days when we lose  
Our tempers over trivial matters,  
Thank you for Jesus.

God of Joy, in these frenzied days when we lose sense of what  
we really need to be happy,  
Thank you for Jesus.

God of Love, in these busy days when we lose  
Our focus on what is important,  
Thank you for Jesus.

For Jesus brought your light and hope into the world.  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Amen.

WELCOME AND WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

\* CAROL - *Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

VU 71

STORY - "On Santa's Team"

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Bob Ross

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 148

VU 871

WISDOM OF ISRAEL – Isaiah 63: 7-9

One: The Word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 2: 13-23

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

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON – “What it really means to be Sanctuary!”

\* CAROL – *While Shepherds Watched their Flocks*

VU 75

### ◆ RESPONSE ◆

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

\* OFFERTORY HYMN – *Away in a Manger*

VU 69

OFFERING PRAYER (said by all)

**O God, we look back on this past year**

**And we see both good and bad,**

**Our accomplishments and our shortcomings.**

**We offer all we are and wish to become**

**To your service, along with our gifts of money  
To build up your church in Jesus' name. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF PETITION OFFERED BY 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.**

★ CAROL – *In the Bleak Midwinter*

VU 55

COMISSIONING AND BLESSING

*Coffee, Hot Cider, muffins and fruit will be served throughout the  
service. Please feel free to get up at any time to replenish.*

*A very special thank you to Imogen Clase  
for leading music in worship today.*

◆ **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.

◆ **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.

◆ **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 Key dates - January** ◆


January 6 - Official Board Meeting

January 15 - Resource Management Meeting


January 25 - Prayer Shawl and Outreach Ministry

<b>MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR</b>		
<b>Monday – December 30</b>		
Reduced Building Hours	8am-5pm	
<b>Tuesday - December 31</b>		
Office Closed		
Reduced Building Hours	8am-3pm	
<b>Wednesday - January 1</b>		
Happy New Year! Melrose Closed		
<b>Thursday - January 2</b>		
Bowling	1:00 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
<b>Friday - January 3</b>		
<b>Saturday - January 4</b>		
<b>Sunday – January 5</b>		
Melrose Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary


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