

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Third Sunday of Advent

Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner
Music Director:	Alexander Cann
Family Ministries Coordinator:	Meg Chalmers
Custodian:	Kevin Geluch
Office Administrator:	Michelle Millson

◆ **Sunday, December 16, 2018** ◆
Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018 ◆
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT – How Shall I Fitly Meet Thee

J. S. Bach

* OPENING HYMN – *Hark, the Glad Sound*

VU 29

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ is coming into the world.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Love comes down to us this Advent Season.

All: Divine love which heals and transforms our lives.

One: With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others.

**All: We open our hearts to all God's children,
the last, the least, and the lost,
as well as those who feel privileged.**

One: God has done, and continues to do great things for us.

**All: Praise be to God who loves us so much
and who challenges us to be people of joy
in this darkened world. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (JOY)

candle lit by: Anne Gilmore and Ken Laidman

One: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's joy.

**All: Knowing that Christ is coming,
to bring healing and wholeness to the world,
is a source of genuine delight!**

One: When we gather for worship it is a celebration,
an opportunity to rejoice in all that God is doing
among us and beyond us.

**All: Our lives are marked by laughter and friendship,
as we love our neighbours with wide smiles and open
arms.**

One: Even when we face difficulty and trouble
we sing a song of faith,
confident that Jesus is able
to redeem our suffering world.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's joy for the world.
(The third candle is lit)

Song: "A Candle is Burning" VU6 (Verse 3)
*A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN – *People, Look East* VU 10

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Readers: Ian and Annika Brisbin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING: Isaiah 12: 1a-6 VU 880

WISDOM OF ISRAEL – Zephaniah 3: 14-20

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL – Luke 3: 7-18

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

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

VU 8

SERMON: “Rejoice Greatly”

ANTHEM – The Holly and the Ivy

arr. A. E. Whitehead

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

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 by all)

God, you have blessed our lives in so many ways.

Receive these tokens of our blessings

and cause them to work in this world

which you have loaned to us

to make light shine in the darkness

and peace an attainable goal.

We offer these gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

concluded by the Prayer of Jesus

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 – *Tomorrow Christ is Coming*

VU 27

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE –

VU 423 Vs. 1

*God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again!*

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 Welcome Binder located by the Name Tag boxes which are located on the tables by the east doors on each side of the chancel steps.

♦ Worship Next Week ♦

This coming Sunday is a high point of our Melrose worship. During morning worship we will honour the fourth Sunday of Advent -- the Sunday devoted to the theme of "love." Our Family Ministries Coordinator, Meg Chalmers has been busy organizing a pageant "Journey to the Christ Child" which, supplemented with appropriate music, is certain to be a beautiful and lively celebration of the Love that came down at Christmas.

♦ Thank you... ♦

Thank you to coffee hosts this month *Barb and Keith Mann*.

♦ 2019 Offering Envelopes Now Available! ♦

2019 Offering envelopes are now available for pickup in the church office. They will also be out in the parlour for the next 2 weeks. 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.

◆ **Advent at Melrose** ◆

Do you have neighbours, friends or family that you think may enjoy joining us during the Advent Season at Melrose? Consider sharing with them the green insert from today's service. If you would like additional copies contact the office for arrangements.

◆ **Light in the December Darkness** ◆

Christmas is not always the merriest time of the year. If you, or someone you know is having a difficult time this year consider joining us December 19 for the Light in the December Darkness Service. Printed invitations are available in the church office.

◆ **Help Needed** ◆

Donations of cookies, squares and treats are needed for the candlelight carol service TONIGHT. Help is also needed with set up, serving and cleanup for the reception after the service. If you are able to help please contact Kathy Ross.

◆ **WrapAround Christmas Assistance** ◆

Thank you so much for all of your generous support this year!!! Together with WrapAround Hamilton's Open Closet in Room 1 we have helped many neighbours with housewares, bedding, clothing, outerware, school supplies, toys and gift cards. Through our work with our WrapAround families we have discovered that many of them will need more help than the Food Banks and other services/charities can provide. We are hoping to gather some gift cards and stocking stuffers for these families. Donations may be brought in to the Church Office during business hours or you can call or speak to Libby Cook

◆ **A car full of caring** ◆

Thanks to everyone at Melrose for their donations of food and toys for Wesley Urban Ministries. Last Sunday Gwyn's VW Passat Wagon was completely **full** of Melrose's caring donations! **Full to the Brim!** Thanks to the Melrose Kids who packed the car too! All donations were taken on Dec 2 to Pioneer United Church where the distribution of food and toys will take place in the next few weeks.

◆ **Melrose United Church Cookbook!** ◆

Yes - finally a cookbook is being created! The cookbook team will be reaching out to everyone at Melrose to contribute their favourite recipes. Please start looking in your recipe files for recipes to share. There is a lot of cooking /eating history at Melrose; so bring out those memories! The Team will be handing out recipe templates in the next few weeks for everyone to write down their recipes. We hope to have the cookbook available by March 2019. This is a fundraiser for Melrose! Send recipes to recipesformelrose@gmail.com.

Please have your recipes sent to us by Dec 20.

Join us tonight!!



Do you use social media? Consider liking and following our social media pages! We regularly update our facebook, twitter and instagram with upcoming and special events – even an occasional joke or two!

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – December 17

MONTHLY FIRE DRILL	10:00 a.m.	ENTIRE BUILDING
Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
LeapYear Education	5:30 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
Brownies and Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Norman Slater Room

Tuesday - December 18

Martial Arts Class	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Ancaster U12 Soccer	6:30 p.m.	Gym
Tai Chi	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
Resource Management Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Pick up Basketball	7:45 p.m.	Gym

Wednesday - December 19

Siva Yoga	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
West Hamilton U12 Soccer	7:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Light in the December Darkness Service	7:00 p.m.	Parlour

Thursday - December 20

Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
Pilates	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
English Country Dancing	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Friday – December 21

WrapAround Executive Meeting	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Bookmobile: HPL	10:00 a.m.	Parking Lot

Saturday - December 22

Private Event	3:00 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
Tom Schilling: Master Class	7:00 p.m.	Chapel

Sunday – December 23

Melrose Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30a.m.	Sanctuary

Monday – December 24

Christmas Eve Family Worship	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Candlelight Communion Worship	10:30a.m.	Sanctuary

Sunday – December 30

Melrose Worship Levee Style	10:30a.m.	Chapel
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