

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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◆ **Sunday, December 15, 2019** ◆
Third Sunday of Advent

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019** ◆
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE – How Far Is It To Bethlehem M. Hayes

INTROIT – O Starry Night K. Bissell

* OPENING HYMN – *There's a Voice in the Wilderness* VU 18

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: John asks, are you the Messiah, or do we await another?

All: The blind see; the lame walk. There is no other!
Jesus is the light of the world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has called us together in this place, at this time,

**All: We come with our whole selves to worship our God who
has created and is creating.**

One: We are called to wait for the coming of the Christ child.

**All: We ready our hearts to receive the gift of joy during this
Advent time of waiting.**

One: The Spirit moves among us, inviting us into a deeper
connection with the Divine.

All: May the Spirit's power move through our worship today.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (JOY)

candle lit by: Graeme, Sally and Phillip Luke

One: In this season of expectant waiting, we rejoice,

All: dancing the choreography of grace.

One: In the dance we find partners:

The old and the newborn,
The wounded and the weary,
The tattooed and the plain,
The dreadlocked and the bald,
All the genders and expressions.

All: Divine choreography weaves us into complex patterns of connection.

One: Rooted in joy, regarding each person as worthy, embracing each soul as God's beloved.

All: Joy blazes into grace-filled celebration of diversity.

(The first, second and third candle are lit)

Song: Hope is a Star

VU 7 (Verse 3)

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,

telling the world that the Saviour is born.

*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.*

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM – Mistletoe and Holly Bright

J. S. Bach

★HYMN – *Joy Is Now in Every Place*

VU 45

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Readers: Gwyneth Xagoraris

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING: Mary's Magnificat

VU 898

WISDOM OF ISRAEL - Isaiah 35: 1-10

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL - Matthew 11: 2-11

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

* HYMN - *Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring*

VU 328

SERMON - "Like Coca Cola, Jesus is the Real Thing"

ANTHEM - Christmas Lullaby

J. Rutter

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

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)

In joy we receive,

In Joy we give,

In Joy, we love, we serve, we believe.

Generous God, Accept our tokens of our life work

To the greater service of your Creation. 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 – *Once in Royal David's City* VU 62

COMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE – *Amen, Amen, Amen* VU 967

POSTLUDE – Bethlehem W. Billings

A special thank you to:

*the Duet Club of Hamilton's Chorus –
Women of Song*

– for singing in our worship service today.

*Christobel Pinto for playing the piano
during the worship service today.*

*Stephane Potvin for leading the Women of
Song during worship today.*

◆ **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** ◆

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We celebrate our Children's Christmas Pageant. Our readings are all taken from the Family Story Bible by Ralph Milton.

We begin when Mary learns about the pending birth of her special baby, Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth, the Stable Birth of Jesus, the visit of the Shepherds, Jesus' presentation at the temple, and finishing the Christmas story with the visit of the Magi.

Come and experience the wonder and excitement of this annual celebration of joy recreated through the eyes of our children. Listen to the greatest story ever told - Immanuel - God with us.

Let nostalgia overtake you as you join in the beautiful and familiar Christmas Carols commemorating this holy time of year.

◆ **A special thankyou** ◆

Many folk will have warmer heads and hands thanks to all the donors from Melrose. With all the items donated we were able to contribute 8 hygiene kits with hat, mitts, scarves to The Bridge. Helping Hands Street Mission received hats, mitts, scarves, socks, travel size shampoo, conditioner, soap and toothpaste. Thanks to all donors over the year. - Social outreach committee



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 **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



◆ **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.

◆ **We need YOUR help** ◆

The worship committee is requesting assistance on Christmas Eve. The committee needs Ushers for both services and candle lighters for the 10:30pm service. If you can help please let Libby know.

◆ **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 16

FIRE DRILL	10:00 a.m.	Entire Building
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Parlour
Bowling	1:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
Brownies, Guides	6:00 p.m.	Auditorium, Gym

Tuesday - December 17

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 18

Pilates	9:30 a.m.	N. S. Room
Light in the December Darkness	7:00 p.m.	Chapel
Pickup Basketball	7:45 p.m.	Gym

Thursday - December 19

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 20

Executive Meeting	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
WrapAround	6:00 p.m.	Offsite
Youth Event - Clay Painting		

Saturday - December 21

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

Sunday – December 22

Melrose Choir Practice	9:50 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship: Pageant	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary



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 Cann*

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