

◆ 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 ◆



First Sunday in 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 2, 2018 ◆
First Sunday of Advent - Hope

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018 ◆
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE – Fugue in C Major

G.F. Handel

* OPENING HYMN – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VU 1

Verse 1 to be sung by choir only; Verses 2-7 to be sung by
congregation and choir

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: Come in hope this day.

Come to worship our God,
source of our deepest desires.

Let the light dance and anticipation stir.

It is Advent, the season of waiting and longing
for Christ's first and final arrival.

All: Now is the time to worship with hope!

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (HOPE)

candle lit by: Nicola Winstanley and Chris Palmer

One: As the season of Advent begins we celebrate hope.

**All: We know that through the birth
of a tiny and helpless child,
God is coming to save the world.**

One: While we watch and wait for Jesus to arrive,
we join in God's mission by bringing grace and mercy
to those who need it most.

**All: We engage the poor and the poor in spirit,
letting Christ's light shine through us.**

One: We speak words of comfort and love
to a world in need of healing
as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

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

SONG— *A Candle is Burning*

VU 6 (Verse 1)

*A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN - *Hope is a Star*

VU 7

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

THE STORY OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Dorothy Smith

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Jim Kraemer

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

WISDOM OF ISRAEL - Jeremiah 33: 14-16

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL – Luke 21: 25-36

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY: “More Signs of the Times”

ANTHEM – The Angel Gabriel

arr. M. Archer

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

* OFFERTORY HYMN – *Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* VU 473

PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OUR OFFERING AND WHITE GIFTS (said by all)

Here, O God, are our gifts:

not for us, but for your work in the world.

Bless them, we pray,

that they may become connections,

that they may transform the world in hope,

that they may transform us

as we seek to live actively in hope. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Advent Communion

The Invitation to Communion

One: In the name of the One who said,

“I am the bread of life,”

I invite you to come and eat.

In the name of the One who said, “I am the true vine,”

I invite you to come and drink.
In the name of the One who said,
“Love one another, as I have loved you,”
I invite you all to the table of Jesus Christ.

The Peace

Let us greet one another in the name of Christ.
“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God be with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to our God.

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

One: Thank you, Almighty Creator,
thank you for the earth and the waters,
thank you for the sky, the air and the sun,
thank you for all living creatures

All: Come, Advent Lord, in the Bread of Life.

One: Praise be to you, Holy Immortal One,
for our homes, our families,
our friends, and loved ones.
Praise be to you for all the people
around us everywhere in this wounded world.

All: Come, Advent Lord, in the Cup of Healing

One: You are God, one immortal;
incorruptible, invisible and faithful;
wonderful and worthy of praise;
strong and worthy of honour;

You are God, living and true;
wise and powerful; holy and splendid
great and good;
You are God, awesome and peace loving;
beautiful and righteous;
pure and kind; blessed and just;
tender and holy;
You are God, not in singularity of one person,
but in the Trinity of substance.

**All: We believe you; we bless you;
We adore you and praise your name for ever.
We praise you
through Christ who saves;
through Christ who brings life;
through Christ who is our resurrection.**

One: Through him the angels and archangels, the apostles
and all the saints and companies of heaven praise your
majesty. So grant, we pray you,
that our voices may be added to those of the celestial
chorus, in declaration of your glory, as we sing:

**All: (Singing) *O holy, holy holy God* MV 203
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
Creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
*and bears your name always!***

The Words of Institution and Prayer for the Spirit

One: On the very night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread and gave You thanks.
He broke it and gave it to his friends saying,

“Take, eat, this is my body which is given to you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave You thanks.
He gave it to his friends, saying,
“Drink this, all of you;
this is the blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

If you are thirsty, drink the Fount of Life.
If you are hungry, eat the Bread of Life.
Blessed are all who hunger for this Bread
and thirst for this Fount.
Together now we sing the mystery of Christ:

All: (singing) *Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, MV 204*
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!

One: Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts, that all who share in this loaf and cup
may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world.
Keep us faithful and alert for the hour of Christ’s coming.
Let us live honourably as children of truth and light, so that
we may eat and drink together in your eternal realm.

All (singing):
Amen, amen, O Holy One! MV 205
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One,
hosanna and Amen!

Intercessions

One: At this time, we also remember all with whom You would have us share your feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain, all who are ill or alone. We pray for all who suffer loss through natural disaster or human wrongdoing, those who are constricted by fear and anxiety. We pray for ourselves and for our church that we may always strive for justice, mercy and peace in the name of the one who taught us to pray together, singing (VU#959)... *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 and for ever. Amen.*

The Sharing of the Elements

One: The Bread of Life shared with you.
The Cup of the New Covenant shared with you.
Come, for the meal is ready!

*(our communion today will be received by intinction. If you are able, please come forward up the centre aisle. Pick up a piece of bread from the tray, dip it in the cup and **consume it immediately**, returning to your seats via the side aisles. The **lighter coloured** chalices contain **grape juice**, the **smaller dark green** chalices contain **wine**. If you are unable to come forward, the servers will gladly come and serve you in the pew. Please help them to locate you.)*

Sung during communion: Ave Maria, Gounod/Bach
Soloist: Allana Stevenson

The Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

One: Gracious God, we praise, worship and adore you for the food received at your table. You have sent Your Holy Spirit among us to make our eating and drinking here a true remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: We go from here strengthened, refreshed and empowered by your Spirit to make our living and working, our loving and doing and thinking a joyful remembrance of him. We look to that day when with the great company of witnesses that surround us, we may eat and drink and be glad in the glory of your realm. This we pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

★ CLOSING HYMN – *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* VU 25

COMISSIONING AND BLESSING

One: Enter this Advent with hope. Enter this Advent with patience. May your waiting be rich and the presence of our God full and near to you.

Bear God's hope to this world like a candle.

**All: May the God of mercy keep us,
the Holy Spirit cheer us,
and Christ in glory greet us,
now and at the day of his coming. Amen.**

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 – Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Hymntune "Wachet auf", arr. J.G. Walther

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 ♦

Next week we will light the Advent wreath's second candle, the candle of peace. The scripture readings include the beautiful Canticle of Zechariah (Luke 1: 68-79) which appropriately ends with God's intention "to guide our feet into the way of peace." Zechariah's song (also known as *The Benedictus*, because of first word in Latin) is possibly unfamiliar, but it has been a part of Christian worship since the early church. The song focuses on the theme of "promise." Zechariah's advice is that we stop looking up into the sky for God and instead lower our gaze to discover that God is here, at work beside us. Another of the readings for Advent II is from the Book of Malachi (3: 1-4). It speaks of a need for spiritual cleansing. The prophet proclaims that God's people have erred and they need to be made clean. God will send a messenger who will be a "refining fire" that will purge away impurities. Malachi gives notice: a radical change is afoot. The refining and washing power is beyond our imagining. Malachi indicates that we need to have our bad habits purged and new, more positive qualities instilled in us.

Only when this cleansing takes place will we have the potential to be the peace-makers that God intends for us to be.

◆ **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 4 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.

Melrose Mistletoe Bazaar 2018

THANK YOU

to all involved at the Bazaar on Saturday
cookie bakers, crafters, soup & pie makers,
cafe servers, gourmet gurus
jewellery & books & Xmas past donators
Volunteers



The success of this event is because of
ALL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT!!

Funds raised at the 2018 Mistletoe Bazaar

....
\$6732

Melrose U C is so grateful to ALL

*****Reminder: there is a
M&P
Meeting today after
church!**

◆ **White Gift Sunday** ◆

Collecting for White Gift Sunday will take place TODAY **December 2nd!** Wesley Urban Ministries is looking for new toys for all ages, gifts of non perishable foods, gift cards to support the families in need in Hamilton at Christmas Time. By supporting WUM we support our own community. For more info on the Wesley Christmas program and Christmas Store please see the flyers on the Wesley bulletin board.

◆ **Sweet Blessings!** ◆

Sweet Blessings! Sincere thanks to the bakers and volunteers who made Cookie Walk 2018 a great success. The bountiful tables were awesome in their number and variety of cookies, and the contributions affirmed Melrose's sweet generosity

◆ **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.

◆ **Social Justice Announcement** ◆

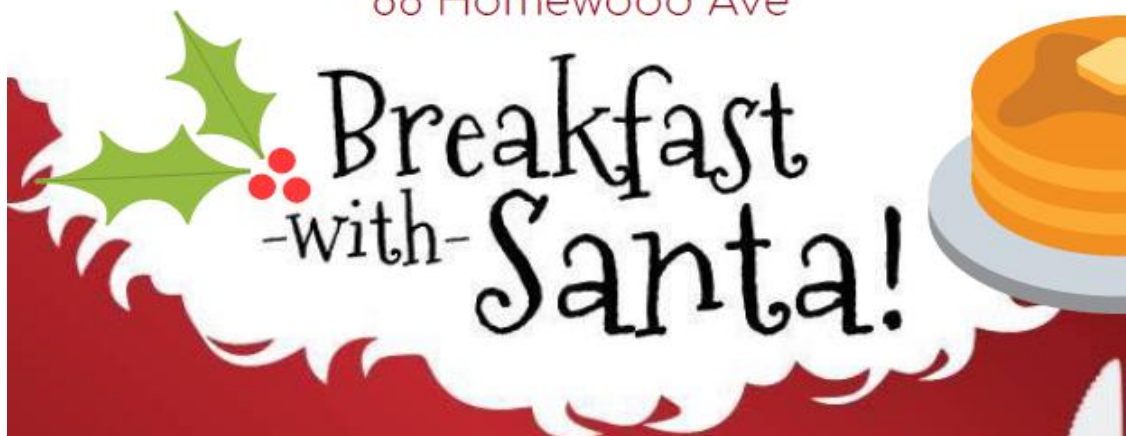
The social Justice/outreach committee is asking for **congregational donations of socks (male and female) , soap, and face cloths** . We are collecting for seniors in the Dundas Retirement Home. Many of these people have no family or friends to support their Christmas and many have very limited income to purchase necessary hygiene products.

Last year we supported 8 people from this home. This year we were presented with a list of 30 folk! We are not turning anyone down. Please consider the purchase of socks, soap and facecloths. Please bring them to the church office by Dec 15th. For further information on this outreach please talk to Gwyneth, Penelope or Denise or Sharon!

Thanks so much for your support.

◆ Upcoming Special Events ◆

Melrose United Church
86 Homewood Ave



Saturday Dec.8th 9:00am - 11:00am



Adults \$10

Children 5-10 \$7

Children under 5 - \$5

To register, please email Meg Chalmers by Thurs. Nov 29th at mucfamilyministries@gmail.com or visit the Church Office. Please include names and ages of all children.

ALL CHILDREN RECEIVE A GIFT FROM SANTA



youth Connection

DECEMBER 9TH, 1 P.M

Christmas Baking
Lunch

Festive Movies



You're invited To A
Christmas
POTLUCK
special WIT dinner



with Rev. Jeff Chalmers and a special guest from the
Bridge Prison Ministry

Please bring a potluck dish to
share and one of the following items for men:

1. Shampoo
2. Conditioner
3. Deoderant
4. Toothpaste and toothbrush
5. Bars of Soap

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
86 Homewood Avenue, Hamilton

Wed. Dec. 12th @ 6:15pm

EVERYONE INVITED



A stylized Christmas tree with a brown trunk and green branches, set against a dark green background. Three horizontal red banners are overlaid on the tree, containing white text. The date 'Friday, Dec 14th' is written in white cursive at the bottom of the tree.

MELROSE

CHRISTMAS

TGIF

Friday, Dec 14th



CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE
An Advent Tradition of Lessons and Carols
DECEMBER 16TH
7:30 PM
Everyone Welcome

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – December 3

Film Crew	6:00 a.m.	Auditorium
Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Parlour
LeapYear Education	5:30 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
Brownies and Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Norman Slater Room
Melrose Official Board	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

Tuesday – December 4

Martial Arts Class	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Ancaster U12 Soccer	6:30 p.m.	Gym
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium, Sanctuary
Tai Chi	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
Pick up Basketball	7:45 p.m.	Gym

Wednesday – December 5

Duet Club of Hamilton Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
Sportball Hamilton Classes	10:00 a.m.	Gym
Siva Yoga	10:30 a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
West Hamilton U12 Soccer	7:00 p.m.	Gym

Thursday – December 6

Melrose Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Chapel
Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
RSDCS Dancing Class	1:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
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 7

Bookmobile: HPL	10:00 a.m.	Parking Lot
Bach Elgar Dress Rehearsal	5:30 p.m.	Sanctuary, Chapel, Aud., Parlour

Saturday – December 8

Santa’s Breakfast	9:00 a.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen
Bach Elgar Messiah Concert	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary, Chapel, Aud., Parlour

Sunday – December 9

Melrose Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30a.m.	Sanctuary
Worship Committee Meeting	12:00 p.m.	Auditorium