

# ◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

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

◆ [www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch) ◆

◆ Twitter: @melroseunited ◆

◆ Instagram: @melroseuc ◆



Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Kevin Geluch

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ December 23, 2018 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Advent IV – Pageant

**MELROSE UNITED CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018**  
**ADVENT IV - PAGEANT**

\* 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

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◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT -Wake, O Wake!

J. S. Bach

\* OPENING HYMN - *Angels We Have Heard on High*

VU 38

\* 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: Light the lamps, prepare the room,  
God is coming to us!

**All: Make our hearts and spirits ready  
to receive God's most gracious gift,  
God's Son, Jesus Christ.**

One: Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming!

**All: May God's light shine on us,  
in us and through us  
that God's glory may be seen. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE (LOVE)

*candle lit by Barbara and Keith Mann, Jennifer Mann-Armstrong and Blakeley  
Armstrong*

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

**All: Soon we will welcome  
the beautiful and radical love of God  
as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.**

One: We embrace our identity as beloved children  
and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

**All: In our homes and in our church  
we offer warm hospitality  
by welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need,  
and those who are different from us.**

One: We demonstrate our care for creation  
in real and tangible ways through the products we buy,  
the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

**All: Together, we are a sign of God's love for the world.**

(The fourth candle is lit)

Song: *A Candle is Burning*

VU 6 (Verse 4)

*A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.*

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆  
*Journey to the Christ Child*

I. THE ANGEL GABRIEL APPEARS TO MARY

Reader: Luke 1: 26-33

Trio: Angelus ad Virginem

trad., 13<sup>th</sup> cent.

II. NO ROOM AT THE INN

Reader: Luke 2: 1-6

★ HYMN – *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

VU 64

### III. THE COURT OF HEROD THE KING

Reader: Matthew 2:1-9

Choir: Coventry Carol

Trad. English

### IV. THE ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

Reader: Luke 2:8

★ HYMN – *While Shepherds Watched*

VU 75, verses 1, 2, 3, 4

Reader: Luke 2: 9-13

Choir: Gloria in Excelsis

Reader: Luke 3: 15

★ HYMN – *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

VU 48

### V. THE SHEPHERDS COME TO THE MANGER

Reader: Luke 2:16

★ HYMN – *Away in a Manger*

VU 69

*(children sing verse 1 alone, everyone join in on verse 2)*

### VI. THE KINGS COME TO THE MANGER

Reader: Matthew 2: 10-12

Choir: *We Three Kings*

**Congregation please join on the chorus:**

*O, star of wonder, star of night  
star with royal beauty bright,*

*westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*As the choir sings, those in the congregation are invited to bring their offerings forward to be placed at the manger.*

CHOIR: Sweet Was the Song the Virgin Sang

J.A. Ross

## PASTORAL PRAYER

\* HMYN – *Joy to the World*

VU 59

\* COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE -- *Angels We Have Heard*

VU 38

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## 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** ◆

Tomorrow night (Christmas Eve) we will honour the feast of Christ's nativity with two special worship opportunities: a "family" service at 7:00 and a candle lit Sacrament of Holy Communion at 10:30. For the earlier service Meg, Philip and Alex have planned a "child-friendly" worship familiar scripture and favourite carols sung by choir and congregation. At 10:30 we will celebrate this most holy night through word and music, this time featuring the considerable talents of our Melrose Chancel Choir and soloists. Then, come celebrate the first Sunday of the Christmas season and ring in the New Year of 2018 on Sunday, December 30th with worship at 10:30 a.m. in the Melrose chapel. Once again, by popular demand, it will take the form of a "New Year's Levee" once again featuring festive carols, readings, laughter and some comforting hot cider. Be sure to join us!

### ◆ **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 today. 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.

### ◆ **Final Presbytery Report** ◆

\* Final meeting and meal shared by all at Marshall Memorial Church. Former Presbytery folk and guests also attended.

\* Reports were given by Wesley Urban Ministries, Diane Blanchard from the Conference Office, the social justice committee and the Transition Commission.

\* Wesley expresses gratitude for all the support from Presbytery and congregations. Info was given on the Christmas Store and specifics needs –

including gifts and volunteers.

\* Conference office is thankful for all the concern and support during this period of transition. They explained about the Hub and how communities of faith will use this when looking for a new minister.

\* The Social Justice Committee discussed many current events and issues including Indigenous People's issues, Palestine and youth concerns.

\* The Transition Commission reported on their ongoing work regarding the changes being implemented within the United Church. A monthly newsletter will communicate updates.

\*The name chosen for our region 9 is 'Horseshoe Falls Region 9'

\*The evening closed with a moving, meaningful final worship communion service, to mark an end and a beginning. To quote from the final prayer, "Thank you God for the many years of ministry we have shared as Hamilton Presbytery. After generations of ministry in this Church court, you are calling us to something new. " Thanks be to God.

Submitted by: Dianne Coons, Presbytery rep

**MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Monday – December 24**

<b>Christmas Eve Family Worship Candlelight Communion Worship</b>	<b>7:00 p.m 10:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Sanctuary Sanctuary</b>
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**Tuesday - December 25 - Merry Christmas!**

**Melrose Closed - Christmas  
Day**

**Wednesday - December 26**

**Melrose Closed Boxing Day**

**Thursday - December 27**

<b>Reduced Building Hours Office Closed</b>	<b>8am-4pm</b>	
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**Friday – December 28**

<b>Reduced Building Hours Office Open</b>	<b>8am-4pm 9am-1pm</b>	
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**Saturday - December 29**

**Sunday – December 30**

<b>Melrose Worship Levee Style</b>	<b>10:30a.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
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