

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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by Gillian Webster

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Child and Youth Coordinator:	Meg Chalmers
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◆ 31 December, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆
1st Sunday after Christmas

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, 31st DECEMBER, 2017 ◆
1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

◆ All are welcome for coffee and conversation in the
parlour after worship ◆

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE (Help yourself to the cider!)

* HYMN – *Standing at the Portal*

*Standing at the portal of the opening year,
Words of comfort meet us hushing every fear,
Spoken through the silence
By our Lord's own voice,
Tender, strong and faithful,
Making us rejoice.*

Refrain

*Onward, then and fear not, children of the day,
For God's word shall never, never pass away*

*'I, the Lord, am with you, do not be afraid;
I will help and strengthen, do not be dismayed;
Yes I will uphold you with my own right hand;
You are called and chosen in my sight to stand.'*

Refrain

*For the year before us, O what rich supplies!
For the poor and needy living streams shall rise;
For the sad and lonely shall God's grace abound;
For the faint and feeble perfect strength be found.*

Refrain

*God will never fail us, God will not forsake;
This eternal cov'nant God will never break.
Resting on God's promise what have we to fear?
God is all-sufficient for the coming year.*

Refrain

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The Light of Christ has come into the world.

All: The Light of Christ shines in our hearts.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: For everything there is a season:

All: And a time for every matter under heaven:

One: A time to be born and a time to die.

**All: A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is
planted.**

One: A time to break down, and a time to build up.

All: A time to weep and a time to laugh.

One: A time to keep and a time to throw away.

All: A time to be silent and a time to speak.

One: A time to love and a time to hate.

All: A time for war and a time for peace.

One: God has made everything suitable for its time.

**All: God has put a sense of past and future into our
minds.**

One: God has done this and we give God thanks.

All: Whatever God does endures forever.

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

Almighty and eternal God,

**we thank you for all the good things
you have given us in the past year.
Let this new year of 2018 also be filled with your blessings.
This we ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

- * CAROL – *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy* VU 73

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 148 VU 871

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Isaiah 61: 10-62:3

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 2: 22-40

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

All: Thanks be to God.

~~SOLO????~~

- * CAROL – *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* VU 58

STORY

REFLECTION: "Simeon and Anna"

* CAROL – *Unto Us a Boy is Born*

VU 54

OFFERING

* OFFERING HYMN – *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Verse 4)

VU 55

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: Loving God, out of your great love for the world,
you have given us so much.**

**We respond by offering these gifts
and our lives to spread the Good News of Jesus' birth.
We pray that you will empower us with your Spirit
to be faithful witnesses throughout the coming year
and throughout our lives.**

In the holy name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

(concluding with Prayer of Jesus)

All: 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.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE FOR NEWYEARS DAY

* CLOSING HYMN – *As the Old Year Passes*

*As the old year passes we look back, reflect:
times of joy and promise, times we'd best forget.
God of the ages help us walk your way.
Help us greet your future, seize tomorrow's day.*

*As the old year passes sorrow wells within:
loved ones no more 'round us,
all that could have been.
God of compassion
heal each ailing heart.
Guide us to your future
where new life may start*

*As the new year dawns now
we would give you praise.
Faithful God, come lead us
onward in new ways.
We'll love and serve you
in the faith of Christ,
in your Spirit's future;
people of new life.*

Words: David MacGregor © 2007 Willow Publishing
Music: Noel Nouvelet - VU 117

* COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

* SUNG RESPONSE – *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

VU 43

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

POSTLUDE (Help yourself to more cider!)

◆ **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.

◆ **Melrose Events** ◆

◆ **Worship Next Week** ◆

On January 7 the Nativity narrative continues as we mark Epiphany Sunday and celebrate through song and story the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. In the Greek language and "epiphany" is a "manifestation" or "sudden awareness." The Magi were the first to recognize that the reign of love inaugurated by Jesus' birth would extend beyond Palestine to the whole world. One of the lovely European traditions associated with the day of Epiphany is marking the lintels of doorways with chalk and saying a blessing: "Peace be with this house and all who live here. And peace be with all who enter here." May peace break out in our world during 2018!

◆ **Thank you** ◆

...to our December coffee hosts – Barb and Keith Mann



◆ **2018 Offering Envelopes Now Available!** ◆

2018 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.

MELROSE CALENDAR		
Monday – January 1		
Happy New Year! Building and Office Closed Big Book	7:00p.m.	Auditorium
Tuesday - January 2		
Melrose Office Closed Return to regular Custodial Hours Bach Elgar Rehearsal Tai Chi	7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Auditorium Parlour
Wednesday - January 3		
Melrose Office Return to regular hours Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Thursday - January 4		
Hamilton Women’s Connection Carpet Bowling Melrose Choir Christmas Tai Chi	10:00 a.m. 1:00p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Parlour Bowling Area Chapel Parlour
Friday - January 5		
Saturday - January 6		
Sunday - January 7		
Melrose Choir Practice Melrose Worship	9:40 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Chapel Sanctuary