

# ◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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

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◆ Twitter: @melroseunited ◆

◆ Instagram: @melroseuc ◆



Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Child & Youth Coordinator:

Michelle Millson

Custodian:

Lee Stallard

Office Administrator:

Pamela Kovacek

◆ December 25, 2016 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Christmas Day Worship

# MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, December 25, 2016 ◆

Christmas Day Worship

\* 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 (Help yourself to the cider!)

\* OPENING HYMN – *I Danced in the Morning*

VU 352

OPENING PRAYER (a Christmas Prayer by Martin Luther)

**All: Little Child of God,  
laid in a manger, we adore your coming!  
Now God is of our image, God is of our flesh and blood.  
Now there is no difference at all between your body and ours.  
You are our Saviour and our brother lying in a cot.  
You join our human frailty, share our needs,  
and assure us of utter glory. Halleluiah!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR CHRISTMAS DAY (said by all, VU 63)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

One: The journey to Christmas may be over,  
but the promise of Christmas is ever present  
God is here with us, reminding us to be present each new day.  
Let us, with confidence, travel toward a new year  
with hope and anticipation,  
ready to face new challenges and to receive new inspiration,  
for God goes with us

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

\* CAROL—*’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

VU 71

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON: Luke 2: 1-7

\* CAROL – *Away in a Manger*

VU 69

SECOND LESSON: Luke 2: 8-20

\* CAROL – *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

VU 43

REFLECTION – “Things I Remember About Christmas”

Ted Lowrey, Shari Saunders

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

\* CAROL – *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

VU 64

CLOSING PRAYER

**All: O God, in Christmas we remember,**

**your eagerness to reach us**

*wherever we are ...*

**in a lowly stable, on a quiet street,**

**amid the warmth of family and friends,**

**in the movement of a song.**

**Continue to speak to us, God, wherever you find us.**

**Be the light of our world. Amen.**

BLESSING

One: And now, out into the world,

to continue the celebrations of Christmas we go.

May our day's activities bring us the joy of Christmas,

and may we know and share

the deep meaning of Christmas  
today,  
tomorrow,  
and every day of our lives.

**All: Christ is born! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

Service conducted by Ted Lowrey and Shari Saunders with much gratitude to our pianist, Carma McKay

Next Melrose Worship is Sunday January 1, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. – A New Year's Levée in the Chapel

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### ◆ Melrose Events ◆

#### ◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Ring in the New Year of 2017 on January 1 with a service in the of worship at 10:30 a.m. in the Melrose chapel that will take the form of a "New Year Levée" featuring more festive carols, readings, laughter and some comforting hot cider. Be sure to join us!

#### ◆ Office Hours: December 26 to January 3 ◆

Please note that the office will be closed from **December 26 to January 2 inclusive**. The building will be open December 27 to December 30 from 8am-3pm and staffed by custodians only. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

#### ◆ Child and Youth Notes ◆

Please note that all regular programming will resume on January 8, 2017.

#### ◆ Donation Envelopes ◆

Please pick up your 2017 donation envelopes in the parlour after worship today! If you would like to have a box, please contact the office. As well, don't forget that the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittal) option of donation is a

wonderful way of sharing with Melrose. Your monthly donation (with amount(s) as prescribed by you) is conveniently and automatically taken from your bank account once a month. You may start, change, or cancel this donation at any time by contacting the office.

◆ **Thank You...** ◆

...to our December coffee hosts, Barb & Keith Mann



◆ **Have You Spotted the Roofers...** ◆

... **working on our church building?** Though we are indeed fortunate to have a roof over our heads, we have experienced water damage in several areas (including our lovely chapel) over the past few months. Other necessary projects had already completely exhausted the Property Committee budget for 2016 before the extreme urgency of the roof repairs became clear. If find yourself able to add a little to this year's offering to close this significant fiscal gap, the Treasurer and the Property Committee would be most grateful.

◆ **Brr!!! Hat, Scarf and Mitten Drive** ◆

It's that time of year! The weather is getting colder and we're pulling out our hats, mittens and scarves. Many of the children at Lake Avenue School need these necessary items. The Social Justice Committee is asking for your help in collecting **NEW** warm hats, mittens/gloves. All sizes welcome. Donations can be placed in labelled box in auditorium. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

◆ **The Prayer Bear Ministry...** ◆

... at Melrose is sponsored through a generous gift in loving memory of Easton Carter Strongman, the infant son of Adam and Jessica Strongman, who died in 2013. If you know of anyone in need of some Prayer Bear cheer, you are invited to take one of the bears from the table near the south (right hand) sanctuary door. Please fill in the Prayer Bear registry book also located on the table so that we have some information about the bear's new home.



**MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Monday – December 26 – MELROSE OFFICE CLOSED**

Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
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**Tuesday – December 27**

Melrose Office Closed		
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**Wednesday – December 28**

Melrose Office Closed		
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**Thursday – December 29**

Melrose Office Closed		
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**Friday – December 30**

Melrose Office Closed		
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**Saturday – December 31**

Crystal Journey Concert	8:30 p.m.	Auditorium
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**Sunday January 1**

Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Chapel
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