

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

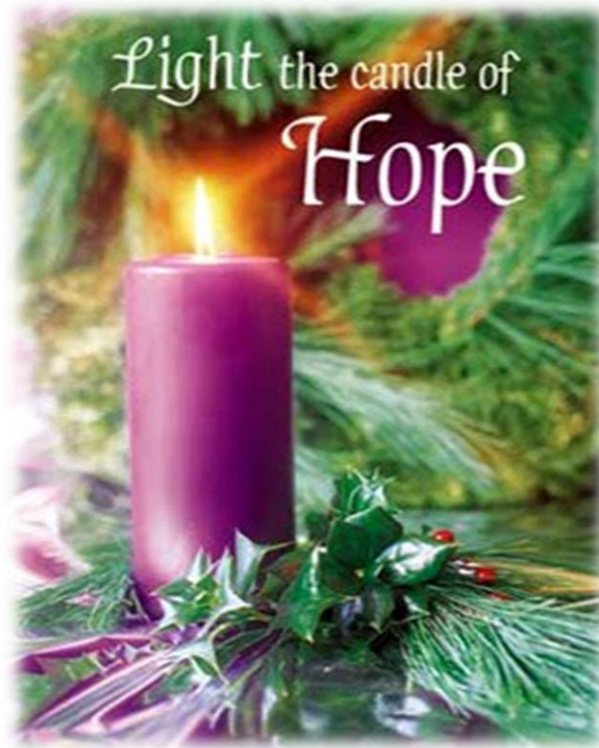
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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Child & Youth Coordinator:

Michelle Millson

Custodian:

Lee Stallard

Office Administrator:

Pamela Kovacek

◆ November 27, 2016 – 10:30 a.m. ◆
First Sunday of Advent – Communion

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, November 27, 2016 ◆

First Sunday of Advent - Communion

* 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 ◆

◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE – *Overture, movt. 1*, from Pastor Fido G. F. Handel

INTROIT – *This is the truth sent from above* R. Vaughan Williams, arr.

* OPENING HYMN – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VU 1

* 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 (Jeremiah 33: 14-16)

One: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

**All: Justice and righteousness will fill the land
and all will live in peace and safety.**

THEME CONVERSATION – Gillian Webster

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (HOPE)

Denise and Phil Farrauto

Voice #1: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, so we light the first candle
of our Advent wreath: the candle of Hope

Voice #2: Twenty-five centuries ago, in a time not much different from our
own when the Israelites had little hope for the future of their country

or their people, the prophets called to God to come to the people and to make things right. They told the people -- and us -- that messiah would come as a new hope in the midst of suffering.

Voice #1: Their prayers were answered with the birth of Jesus, also called Emmanuel, a Hebrew word that means "God with us."

Voice #2: Today our Advent journey of waiting begins. We await the birth of the One who is called the Light of the World and the Hope of the Nations.

Voice #1: As we light the candle of Hope, we give thanks for the prophets of our day who dare to speak words of hope for liberation, who say "No" to the evil in the world and who call us to overcome our fear and to explore new visions of how things could be.

All: So many in your world, Holy God, have lost hope, or put their hope in false promises. Sometimes it feels you are not with us but are far, far, away. We pray that you come into our world again. Be Emmanuel for us; enter our hearts. Help us to live into your hope so we may be your light shining in the darkest places of the world.

Amen. [the first Advent candle is lit]

SONG – *A Candle is Burning* (verse 1)

VU 6

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM – *Veiled in Darkness*

G. Rudolph

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

★ HYMN – *People Look East*

VU 9

Reader: Dianne Coons

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Isaiah 9: 1-7

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: John 6: 25-35

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY: "Good Taste"

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

★ OFFERTORY HYMN – *One Bread, One Body*

VU 467

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said by all)

**Healing God, may these gifts of our hearts be used to
further your hope and love in this hurting and broken world.
May we be the face of Christ for all who need hope, healing,
and love. Amen.**

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION
A Celtic Communion for Advent

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) *Holy, Holy, Holy* MV 203
O holy, holy holy God
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) MV 204
*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!*

One: Look with kindness on your people
gathered here before you.
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.

All: (singing): MV 205
*Amen, amen, O Holy One!
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 by 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.)

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 -- *Hail to God's Own Anointed*

VU 30

★ COMMISSIONING 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 955

*Grant to us your peace on earth,
Grant to us your peace, O God.*

POSTLUDE – *A Child is Born*

T. Jones, interp. O Peterson

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

On the Second Sunday of Advent we will light the candle of "peace", remembering that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. This week will also feature the second in a series of five sermons based on our five senses. The thematic emphasis is on the sense of "touch" and will be rooted in the wonderful narrative from Luke's gospel of Mary's journey to visit to her cousin Elizabeth. When the child in Elizabeth's womb leaps she finds herself touched (from inside!) by the good news of the baby who will be born at Bethlehem. These beautiful stories invite us to consider the touch of Jesus in our own lives and how we might have responded to that touch.

◆ Melrose Bazaar – a great success! ◆

A special thank you to the organizers and to all who assisted in any way to continue the outstanding tradition of our Melrose Mistletoe Bazaar!

◆ Stamps Wanted!!! ◆

Please save all your postage stamps. Hand them to Gwyneth or the church office. We mail them to the leprosy mission of Canada to raise funds for leprosy treatment.

◆ **Thank You...** ◆

...to our November coffee hosts, Cheryl Evans and Patti Varey.



◆ **Donation Envelopes** ◆

It's almost time again for the distribution of 2017 donation envelopes! If you have not been receiving these on a yearly basis, but would like to start, please contact the office. We would be happy to set a box aside just for you.

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.

◆ **Child and Youth Notes** ◆

Thursdays are for fun: is **cancelled** this week, **Thursday December 1st.**

Sunday School: Plan to join us each Sunday as we learn all about the Superheroes of the Bible! All ages welcome, nursery facilities available.

TGIF: Thank you for everyone's help on Friday decorating the beautiful sanctuary tree!

◆ **White Gift Sunday** ◆

Collecting for White Gift Sunday will take place **TODAY November 27** and **NEXT WEEK December 3rd!** 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. Please consider purchasing items throughout November and bring them to church Nov. 26 or Dec. 3. Melrose supports Wesley Urban Ministries! By supporting WUM we support our own community.

◆ **Santa's Breakfast** ◆

It's official - Santa is coming! Plan to attend **December 3 @ 9am.** See Michelle or Gwyn for tickets - last day to purchase is **TODAY, Nov 27!**



◆ **Melrose Corner Shoppe Coming Soon!** ◆

The Melrose Corner Shoppe will be **re-opening** with a Christmas theme on **December 1!** Please stop in to browse for Christmas goodies, stocking stuffers, hostess gifts and decorations. All proceeds will be put towards Melrose roof repairs. Your support is greatly appreciated.


◆ **Help (and Cookies) Wanted!** ◆


After the Candlelight Carol Service on **December 4th**, we will be holding a reception. If you can contribute a few Christmas Cookies, please leave them in the kitchen, clearly labelled for the Candlelight Carol Service. Also, please consider volunteering to help set up or clean up afterwards. Speak to Kathy Ross for more information about this event.


◆ **Christmas Day Service** ◆

The Worship Committee is considering not having a service at Melrose on Christmas Day (Sunday), or offering an informal lay-led service in the Parlour. If you would like to lead a Christmas Day service at Melrose, please speak with Rev. Philip or Margaret Duff as soon as possible. Worship planning resources and supports will be provided.

◆ **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. Many of the children in need are Syrian Refugees who arrived when the weather was warmer. The school has a clothing room for students who need items. The Social Justice Committee is asking for your help in collecting warm hats, mittens/gloves and scarves to stock up the school's clothing room. 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.



◆ **A Rose Upon the Altar** ◆

This is a story of Love, Redemption and Grace. All proceeds will go to the new Children's Learning Centre. The two performances (2 p.m. and 7 p.m.) will be held **TODAY, Sunday, November 27th**, 2016 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 4 Queen St. S., Hamilton.

Tickets are \$20 and available at the Scottish Rite. This event is open to everyone.

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – November 28

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
MONTHLY FIRE DRILL	3:00 p.m.	Entire Building
Brownies, Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium
Bach Elgar Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Chapel
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour

Tuesday – November 29

McMaster Choir Dress Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Wednesday – November 30

Duet Club of Hamilton Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area

Thursday – December 1

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
English Country Dancing	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

Friday – December 2

Live on Locke	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary, Parlour, Kitchen (shared)
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Saturday – December 3

Melrose Santa's Breakfast	9:00 a.m.	Aud., Kitchen
McMaster Choir Concert	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary, Auditorium

Sunday – December 4

Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Melrose Candlelight Service	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary