

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Darcy Feaver

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ December 24, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. ◆

Christmas Eve Family Service

We celebrate the birth of the Christ Child

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, December 24, 2017 ◆

Christmas Eve Family Service

We celebrate the birth of the Christ Child

* 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 ◆

BELL CHOIR INTROIT – Gloria

J. Berthier, arr. D. Nixon

PRELUDE – From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

J. G. Walther

* OPENING HYMN – *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

VU 48

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Be still this holy night.
Be still in this sacred place,
on this cold, dark night of great joy.
Be still and let your spirit stir.
We are in the presence of God.
Let the hole world celebrate.

All: Worship Christ, the newborn king!

LIGHTING OF THE NATIVITY CANDLE

*candles lit by Imogen and Jonathan Clase
(The three blue candles and pink candle are lit.)*

One: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy;
for to you is born in the city of David
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord!

**All: Jesus has arrived in grace and mystery,
renewing faded hopes**

and announcing peace to a weary world.

One: Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favours!

**All: Jesus comes among us in power and glory
inspiring fresh Christmas joy
and calling us to lives that are full of God's love.**

One: Jesus, the light of the world, is born.

**All: Let Christ's light shine
in the darkest corners of our lives.
Let Christ's light shine
in the darkest corners of our world.
God is with us.**

(The white candle is lit)

Song: "A Candle is Burning"

VU6 (Verse 5)

*We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.*

WELCOME

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

★ HYMN – *What Child is This*

VU 74

PIANO DUET – Silent Night

F. Gruber, arr. C Rollin

Reader: Gwennyth Xagoraris

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2: 1 - 14

SOLO – O Holy Night

A. Adam

Soloist: Allana Stevenson

STORYTIME with Meg

CAROL - O Little Town of Bethlehem

VU 64

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING - Danse Arabe from *The Nutcracker Suite*

P. Tchaikovsky

* OFFERING HYMN – *In the Bleak Midwinter*

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 (said all together)

**Loving God, these are our gifts for your Son, Jesus.
May they be used to birth your love in the world
and bring peace to all people. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS (concluding with the 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, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

VIDEO – New Zealand Christmas Pageant Part II

* CLOSING HYMN – *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

VU 60

* COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

* SHARING THE LIGHT

A LULLABY FOR THE CHRIST CHILD--*Silent Night (seated)*

VU 67

*Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace!*

*Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is born!*

*Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

Please blow out your candle before leaving the pew.

Ushers: Graeme Luke and Michael Clase

Instrumentalists: Imogen Clase, piano; Allana Stevenson, piano;

Nigel Luke, Saxophone

Bell Ringers: Audie Cameron, Imogen Clase, Michael Clase, Nigel Luke,
Nuala Dalrymple Philip Luke and Sam Cameron

Thank you: to Gillian Webster for her lovely cover print on
this evening's bulletin