



◆ 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.

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Our Old Testament Scripture taken from Isaiah is the wording that Jesus uses when he stands up in the synagogue to proclaim that He is the One for whom this passage has been written. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me." Jesus declares himself to be the fulfilment of this scripture. God's salvation is meant to change the world here and now and we are all invited to participate in this mission of salvation. We are told what it would look like; we are to turn our attention to those that are named in Isaiah's message; God has special concern for the oppressed, the broken-hearted, the captives, the prisoners, the mournful, and the faint of spirit. It is the lowest and weakest He wants to save. These are the people who need to hear the reassuring message that God will provide for them. And other nations need to see by their behaviour, that they have been chosen by God to be lights to the ends of the earth.

In Psalm 126, you will hear the familiar words that have given rise to an old hymn, Bringing in the Sheaves. "You shall go out rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves." I suspect perhaps, we are showing our age with this tune.

The Gospel chosen to be part of this Sunday's lectionary is taken from John. It again features John the Baptist. He said that he was not the light but that he was testifying to the light that was to come. He had been preaching and baptizing in the wilderness and had come to the attention of the Jewish religious establishment, particularly the



Pharisees. They were probably wondering why their people were flocking out to hear this strange man so they sent emissaries to question him. He clearly told them he was not the Messiah, nor was he Elijah, nor a prophet. And he reiterated what we read in last week's scripture: "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."

How might we be light bearers as our testimony to the one who already came, is present with us now, yet is still to come?

◆ A big thank you! ◆

A big thank you for all those who baked, sewed, crocheted, hustled and make the bazaar a huge success! We raised around \$4200 to support the work of the church (and made a lot of people happy with tasty treats!).

◆ Light in the December Darkness Service - December 9 ◆

We invite you to set aside an hour on the evening of Wednesday, December 9 at 7.30 to join our virtual service for a time of recognition of the losses that have attached themselves to you during this past year. Some of you have lost loved ones through a very trying time of COVID-19. But for many of you, the isolation, loss of income, health concerns and changed routines for family, have shaken your emotional well being. Join us for a time of prayer, rest and renewal. We would like to offer you the opportunity to request a candle to be lighted during this service in memory of a loved one, or in prayer of request or thanksgiving. Please let Michelle in our office know of your wishes and whether you want the names spoken or just your name and a quiet prayer when the candle is lit.



◆ Wesley's Christmas Program ◆

NEW for 2020- Holiday Hampers!

Due to COVID-19, Wesley's Christmas & Holiday program will not operate like a store this year. Instead, we will provide hampers for people who participate in Wesley programs and through some of our community partners. This includes families, seniors and the homeless.

Donations and pre-packed hampers can be dropped off at 1974 King Street East in December, where volunteers will sort and pack hampers.

There will be no public access of the program or Pioneer Church this year. Community members looking for assistance can contact a Food Bank at: <https://www.hamiltonfoodshare.org/contact-2/food/>

Here are four ways to get involved this year!

[Donate online](#) to help us purchase gifts & food in bulk

[Purchase an Amazon online gift card](#) and email us the details at info@wesley.ca

NEW [Purchase a digital gift for a young person!](#)

Purchase donations and do a curbside drop off at 1975 King St E (Pioneer Church). See this year's [calendar](#) for drop off times. Donors are asked to stay in their cars and wait for instructions from volunteers. Only scheduled and screened volunteers are allowed inside the building this year. For more information, please read our [Pandemic Protocols](#) document.

Donation Wish List:

Plastic or re-usable bags

Any non-perishable food in individual or family sizes

New gifts: toys, hygiene items, small kitchen appliances, towel & linens



Gift Certificates for Walmart, Giant Tiger, Canadian Tire, Toys 'R' Us
New or gently used hats, mitts, socks, winter boots and coats (No clothing)

[Digital gifts for young people](#)

*To make a pre-packed hamper for a single adult, pack \$25 worth of food and \$25 worth of gifts.

For general inquiries about this year's Holiday Assistance Program, please contact raj.matharu@wesley.ca

[Melrose Specific:](#) The Social Justice team is also offering opportunities to drop off items without contact at a number of locations throughout the city that they will collect and ensure makes it's way to Wesley. Items they will be collecting include: **Non-perishable foods, new towels and linens, hygiene items, toys, coats, mittens, socks, reusable bags and small kitchen appliances.** For info on where to drop off please contact Gwyn at gwynxag@gmail.com.

◆ Envelopes ◆

We are beginning 2021 envelope distribution early this year to give people an oppourtunity to safely drop by over the next 7 weeks. If you have envelopes to pick up you can stop by during the church operating hours to pick up. Masks are required to be worn at all times when in the building. If you are not feeling well please plan to stop by another time. If you want to double check your plan to stop by send a note to the office: melrose@melroseunited.ca. The office recommends ordering from the bazaar and picking up at the same time!

You do not need to pick up your envelopes to continue donating with the same donation number. Donations made through e-transfer, PAR or mailed in by cheque will still be tracked.

◆ Donations ◆



Life and Work At Melrose

December 6, 2020

The Melrose staff team (and volunteer base) continues to do work behind the scenes even though we cannot use the building to worship together. If you are looking to support the ongoing work of the church you can:

1. Sign up for P.A.R. (preauthorized remittance) through the office.
2. Make a one time or ongoing donation through Canada Helps.Org
3. Send a donation through e-transfer to donations@melroseunited.ca.