



◆ 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's worship brings us to the end of the church calendar year in which we are celebrating the Reign of Christ Sunday. Next Sunday which is the first Sunday of Advent moves out of Year A into Year B on our three-year liturgical rotation. We have come full circle from the anticipated birth of the Christ Child through the short-recorded years of his teachings, miracles, betrayal, death and resurrection. This Sunday climaxes in recognizing Jesus Christ as the reigning King of Heaven, seated on the throne of God.

The Old Testament passage in Ezekiel 34:11-16 and 20-24, is a parallel to the twenty-third Psalm. It gives us a visual of God as Shepherd, Searcher, Rescuer, Gatherer, and, Provider.

God will not let any of His flock stray . But there is another side to this tender-hearted God, in contrast, He can also be a judge who brings about justice and correction.

From nurturing to judgment and accountability. What an amazing, unconditional love that carries with it immense responsibilities to share that gracious gift of care and compassion with others.

The Psalm 95 is a joyful reminder that God alone deserves our praise and allegiance. Praise is due because of the relationship between God and the people. And Praise is due because God is in a continual act of creating and redeeming the world. This is a moment of preparation before we enter the time of Advent waiting.



The Gospel reading today in Matthew 25: 31-46 speaks to a Vision of Christ, seated on the Throne, worthy of praise. His role will be to separate those who have been blessed from those who are cursed. The dividing line occurs with the compassion and attention given to the hungry and thirsty, the stranger, the unclothed, the sick and the prisoners. Christ deems these lesser individuals of worth and stand Ins for Himself. When they are ignored, he takes it personally as a blight against Himself.

What can I do? We ask. Overwhelmed by the need. Read this passage, Jesus tells us clearly what we are expected to do.

◆ Ordering is now live! ◆

Check out [www.melroseunited.ca/bazaar](http://www.melroseunited.ca/bazaar) to put your order in for the Mistletoe Bazaar! Once your order is confirmed payment options and a pickup time will be assigned. If needed delivery arrangements can be made.

◆ 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.



## ◆ Envelopes ◆

We are beginning 2021 envelope distribution early this year to give people an opportunity 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](mailto: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 ◆

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](mailto:donations@melroseunited.ca).