

# ◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

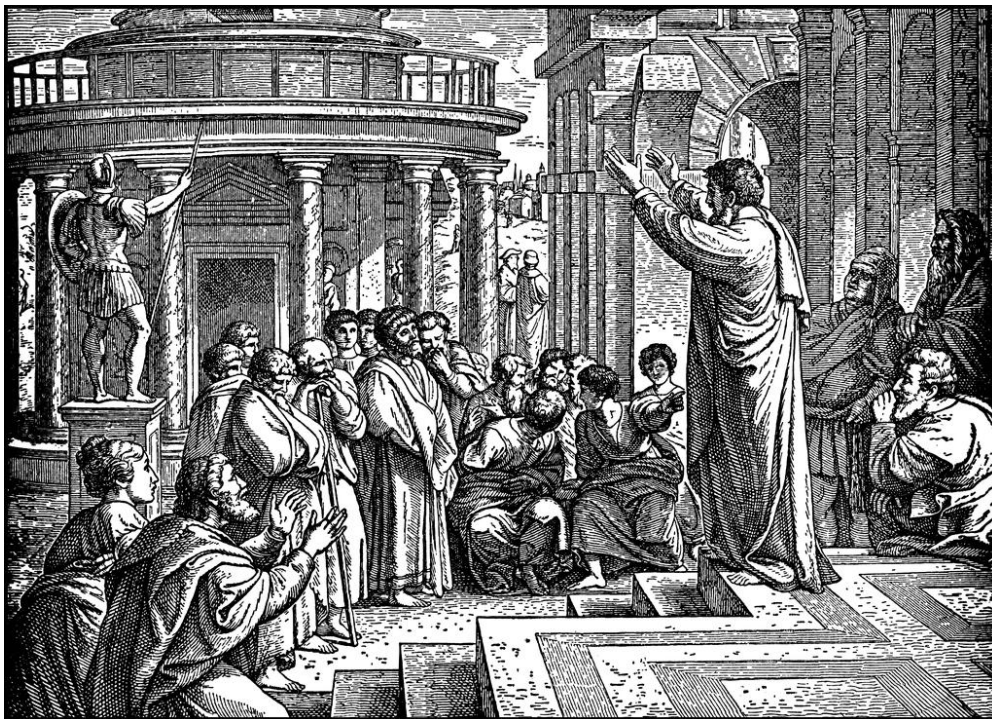
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◆ [www.melroseunited.ca](http://www.melroseunited.ca) ◆

◆ [www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch](http://www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch) ◆

◆ 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

◆ 21 May, 2017 - 10:30 a.m. ◆

Sixth Sunday of Easter

# MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 ◆

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

\* 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 – *Morning from Peer Gynt*,

E. Grieg, arr. R. Lloyd

INTROIT – *Alleluia*

J. de Cleve

\* OPENING HYMN – *God, Whose Love is Reigning o'er Us*

VU 399

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ is in the world.

**All: God's Resurrection love burns in our hearts.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

**All: Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.**

One: God's love is for you and for all people everywhere.

**All: That we may share God's love and life,  
may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living  
Christ.**

One: The living Christ is with us.

**All: Hallelujah!**

OPENING PRAYER (said by all):

**Source of all creation, maker of the world  
and everything in it,**

**you are never far from each one of us.**

**We come into your house seeking you,**

**O giver of life and breath.**

**Reveal yourself to us; dwell with us;**

**and abide in us.  
We live because of you.  
We hope because of you.  
In the name of Jesus Christ in whom we live,  
and the Spirit of Truth who abides in us, Amen.**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

**◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆**

★ HYMN – *Praise Our Maker* VU 316

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

Reader: Barb Bloemhof

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 66 (Parts 2 & 3, Refrain # 2) VU 784

SCRIPTURE: Acts 17: 22-31

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: John 14: 15-21

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

★ HYMN – *O God beyond All Praising* VU 258

SERMON – “Your God is Too Small”

CHORAL ANTHEM – *Ain'-a that Good News* arr. W.L. Dawson

**◆ RESPONSE ◆**

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

\*OFFERTORY HYMN – *There in God's Garden* VU 346 (Verse 6)  
*All heaven is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy healing strength and pardon.  
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Saviour!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**Giver of all gifts,  
we are grateful for your every blessing  
and for your presence in all of life.  
Through the gifts we have given  
and through the lives we live,  
may the world be healed  
and all of your children  
find their true home in you. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

(concluding with the Prayer of Jesus, VU 914)

\* CLOSING HYMN – *O Praise the Gracious Power* VU 320

\* COMMISSIONING

One: Wherever we are, we are in God.

**All: Wherever we are, we are in Christ, and Christ is in us.**

One: Wherever we are, the Spirit abides with us and in us.

**All: We go forth in peace and hope,  
upheld by God in every way.**

One: Let us go forth in faithfulness and trust.

**All: May all see the Divine in and through us.**

\* BLESSING

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

VU 974

*Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, Amen!*

POSTLUDE – *Finale from Music for the Royal Fireworks*


G.F. Handel

## ◆ Melrose Events ◆

### ◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Next Sunday is the Sunday closest to Ascension Day and is also the Annual Meeting of the United Church's Hamilton Conference in Port Elgin which Dr. Gardner will be attending. We are delighted to welcome a familiar face to the Melrose pulpit -- the Rev. Dr. Francis Chisholm who is celebrating a major milestone this year: the sixty-fifth anniversary of his ordination in the Church of Scotland. The focus for Dr. Chisholm's sermon will be the ascension narratives in Luke-Acts (Luke 24: 44-53, Acts 1: 1-11) and will explore how the Ascension event helps us to understand God's redemptive activity in the world. The service will be conducted by our Worship Committee chair, Margaret Duff.

### ◆ Are you upgrading this summer? ◆

If  you are upgrading your lawn mower this year please consider donating your old machine to the church. Our current mower desperately needs to be replaced.

### ◆ Case for Kids ◆

Wesley Case for Kids is **Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>**! Check out the signs on the bulletin board or talk to Gwyn X. for information. For sign up forms check the church office. Rev. Gardner will be walking and will be happily accepting monetary donations.

### ◆ Steel City Event ◆

On **Tuesday, June 3 @ 10:30 a.m.** for the unveiling of the **Hamilton/Afghanistan War Monument** at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope. For more information check out: [www.nwrasteelcity.com](http://www.nwrasteelcity.com).

### ◆ Bible Study ◆

The Tuesday morning Bible Study group will be taking a break for the summer and will resume again in October. Watch the bulletin for details.

### ◆ **Spring Cleaning with the SJC** ◆

The Social Justice Committee can always find a good home for those little samples of shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. that hotels and dentists like to share. Please drop off any unopened personal hygiene products in the Helping Hands blue bin, located in the auditorium.

### ◆ **We Need You!** ◆

Have you considered becoming a full member of the Melrose community? One of the benefits of full membership is that your voice will be heard on any matters pertaining to the *spiritual* health of the congregation. If you are interested in more information, speak to Rev. Philip. Our plan is receive new members at the Pentecost worship service on June 4th if there are any folk interested.

### ◆ **Thanks!** ◆

Carolyn Duff sends her thanks to the willing Melrose people who have offered to read during the summer Sunday services.

I actually had more potential readers than there are Sundays!

I shall be thinking of each of you and will send reminders from Nova Scotia.

### ◆ **Melrose Church Picnic** ◆

The Melrose Church Picnic will be taking place on **June 11 @ Dundas Driving Park in Pavillion 2/3**. We will be having an informal service outside in the park followed by a picnic lunch. All are welcome! Invite your friends and families.

Please bring a lawn chair, splash pad swimming supplies, your own beverages and a potluck dish to share. Rain or Shine.

### ◆ **Women in Touch – WIT – Wednesday, June 14** ◆

The WIT potluck dinner will be held in the parlour beginning at **6:30pm**. Our guest for the evening is **Marion Sewell-Sneyd**. She will share with us her experiences as a volunteer with **Child Haven International**. Check out: [www.childhaven.ca](http://www.childhaven.ca). Please join us to share food, fun and fellowship.

◆ **Child and Youth Notes** ◆

Please note there is no Thursday night programming again until September. The final Sunday School lesson for the school year will be June 4<sup>th</sup>.

◆ **It's Observer Renewal Time Again!** ◆

For a subscription to this helpful, thought-provoking magazine, please enclose \$25 in the envelopes provided at the front of the sanctuary. Please fill in the envelope label and put it on the collection plate. **Subscriptions should need to be collected by the end of August, 2017. This early notice is for those who will out of town for the summer.** Thank you.

◆ **May in the Corner Shoppe** ◆

*"Everything's Coming Up Roses"* in May for Mother's Day at The Melrose Corner Shoppe! Be sure to check it out for some 'Up-Cycling Inspiration' and some 'Spring-Time Cheer!' All proceeds go to Melrose Stained Glass Window repairs.

◆ **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.

**Extreme Hunger Appeal**

The United Church of Canada is launching an **Extreme Hunger Appeal** as the humanitarian crisis in Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen reaches grave levels.

[Starvation and extreme hunger](#) are rapidly reaching a scale the world has not seen before in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen. There is also extreme hunger, malnutrition, and starvation in Kenya. Vulnerable people are most impacted, including children. (continued...)

Small-scale farmers supply the majority of food in Africa. But climate change has created a devastating and prolonged drought, resulting in both water and food shortages. Farmers are unable to grow crops and their livestock have died. Ongoing conflict is also contributing to the crisis as many families are forced to flee their homes, farms, and livelihoods.

The people of Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Kenya urgently need your help. All donations raised for this appeal will go to our long-term Mission & Service partners, including [ACT Alliance](#), which is saving lives in the region. This Extreme Hunger Appeal follows the Drought Appeal for Africa that the United Church launched last April. Many United Church members have also generously given to the Canada Food Grains Bank, which is providing emergency food relief.

Please consider using the specially designated envelopes in the pew or chapel chair and donating to this Mission and Services Project. The Social Justice Committee will be collecting the envelopes throughout the month of June.

**Presbytery News**—Respectfully Submitted by Dianne Coons  
Hamilton Presbytery met at Marshall Memorial United Church, Tuesday,  
May 2, 2017

1. After a reflective Worship service, (road to Emmaus story), a presentation was made by Raphael Vallejo about the ceasing of operations at Five Oaks Nov. 2016. The good news is that a members working group was created, out of which a NEW FIVE OAKS has arisen! A multi - disciplinary setting will be established for a one year commitment, consisting of Interfaith groups from Six Nations Grand River, a Muslim association and the United Church. It is all in the working stages, regarding funding commitments, and much work ahead, but the positive welcome news was well received. We need to be aware of new life at Five Oaks, supporting it and keeping this exciting new initiative in our prayers. Anyone interested in becoming a voting member of Five Oaks to be part of its future, please go to their website to sign up.
2. Olivet United Church will cease to worship as of June 30, as reported by Pastoral Oversight. Amidst tears and prayers, a lament time was held



during which the rich history of Olivet's contribution to Christian life and worship was honoured and remembered. A report was read regarding the financial details. Details of this report can be viewed on Hamilton Presbytery's website.

3. Mount Hope United church, in a hopeful, positive move, will unite with Barton Stone United Church June 30. Ministry will be shared between two current ministers. A closing service was held May 7 to honour Mount Hope United Church and its rich history. The building has been sold to Mount Hamilton Christian Reformed Church. Prayers were also given in a celebration of the hope of new life for these 2 uniting churches.
4. CASE FOR KIDS for Wesley Urban Ministries. June 4 Bay Front Park. Please walk, run or bike, join in, pledge and support our own Wesley as this amazing organization does so much to help those in need in Hamilton. See poster in the hall.
5. Resource Centre: The Resource Centre will be moving to Emmanuel United Church on Upper Ottawa St. upon Olivet United Church's closing. Please visit and support the resource centre before it closes (sale items!) and in Sept. at Emmanuel. Moving day is June 19.
6. Hamilton Conference will hold its annual general meeting weekend in Port Elgin from May 26-28.
7. The social Justice Committee reported on the successful sponsorship of a refugee family by several United Churches in the Copetown Dundas area. The families are settled. Funds are available to help other churches become involved in this effort, to sponsor a Palestinian family designated to come to Canada, who have been waiting for years. A constituent group or groups are badly needed to have the conversation and commit to helping the family. Please speak to Dianne or Philip for more information.
8. Summer day camp - there are 4 confirmed councillors with more to come. TEN camps will run this summer -one week is still open.

A special note: last month , **April 4** , our own Rev. Philip led Presbytery in a meaningful worship service of readings, music and prayer, with the focal point being the lovely cross hanging created by our quilting group, dedicated in Melrose worship on April 23. Thanks, Philip, for leading in a special and memorable service.

**VBS: Hero Central is coming!**  
**August 7 -11 from 8:30am-12:00pm.**



**Registration forms available at the office and online**

**Ages 5-11 for main camp, Teens welcome for CIT (counsellors in training, including opportunities for volunteer service hours)**

Please plan to sign up your kids! Sign up your friends' kids! Sign up your neighbors' kids! Sign up kids you find walking down the street! Encourage all those you know to participate. It is a top notch program run by great people through Hamilton Presbytery. Rev. Philip and the CD Team will also be involved in many key parts. The day camp is an excellent ministry opportunity and it is a chance to share with our friends, acquaintances, coworkers and community what Melrose has to offer.

We will be recruiting help in the following ways:

**1. Snack team Members:** We are looking for two people to sign up for each morning we are hosting and to handle the preparing and cleaning up of snacks. Supplies will be provided if required. We have a very detailed guide complete with photo instructions. Commitment of time would approximately 2 hours per morning.

**2. Registration Team members:** Each morning we will need 1-2 people to cover the registration desk when the children arrive and leave. It will only require a commitment from 8:30-9:15 and 12:00-12:30.

**3. Promote!** Please share with those around you and in your workplace that the camp is taking place. In order for this to be a success we need children to attend.

**4. Prayer, patience and support.** There will be a lot of little ones tramping all over the place during that week. This is an opportunity to serve our community with a free day camp (free will offering to cover our cost of \$500 for the week would be gratefully accepted) and share our message with those around us.

**MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Monday – May 22 – Victoria Day, Office closed**

Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
Big Book	7:45 p.m.	Auditorium

**Tuesday - May 23**

Locke Street BIA Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

**Wednesday - May 24**

Duet Club AGM	9:00 a.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area

**Thursday – May 25**

Early Years	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Martial Arts	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
English Country Dancing	6:45 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
<b>Melrose Choir Practice</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>

**Friday – May 26**

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**Saturday - May 27**

<b>Prayer Shawl &amp; Outreach Ministry</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Parlour, Kitchen</b>
Tom Schilling: Master Class	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

**Sunday – May 28**

<b>Melrose Worship</b>	<b>10:30a.m.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
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