

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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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

◆ 12 February, 2017 - 10:30 a.m. ◆
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ Sunday, February 12, 2017 ◆
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

* 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 – *Air* S. Wesley

INTROIT – *The Lord Hath Manifested* G. Thalban-Ball

* OPENING HYMN – *God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us* VU 399

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ is in this place.

All: The light of Christ shines in our hearts.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Happy are those who walk in God's ways.

**All: Blessed are those who observe God's
commandments.**

One: Faithful are those whose eyes are fixed
on righteousness.

**All: Joyful are those whose hearts are filled
with praise.**

One: Come, let us love the Lord our God.

**All: We come to worship the One who leads us
in the ways of life.**

OPENING PRAYER

**All: Holy Spirit, guide us as we walk in faith,
and guard us against the powers
that would draw us away from your love.**

Prompt us to seek you with our whole heart
and guide us to walk in your ways,
that we may carry out the vows
of the covenant we share.
May our words and deeds
bring life and faith to others,
as we hold fast to the gift of faith.
Be near us each and every day,
and bless us with your light,
that our days may be filled with grace. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

★ HYMN – *Jesus, Friend of the Little Children*

VU 340

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Michael Clase

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 119, Pt 1

VU 838

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

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

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 21-37

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY – “My Bad”

ANTHEM – *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel*

R. Emerson

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

★ OFFERING HYMN— *One Bread, One Body*

VU 467

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Gracious God, as we present these offerings,
may we be reminded of the many blessings
you have shared with us as individuals,
and as a community of believers.

May our sharing this day reveal our priorities and our promises,
for we belong to you and offer you our gifts,
that they may be used in mission and in ministry.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 to the table of Jesus Christ.

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 the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Ever creating God, we give you thanks for the gift of nature -
for scarlet leaves and flowing waters,
stars and planets and
satellites whirling through the black skies;
and we thank you for the gift of cities-
home to soccer games and symphonies,
mosaics of cultures and colours
where people of many faiths worship in peace.

You have loved cities with names like
Nineveh, and Babylon, and Jerusalem.
Your prophet Jeremiah reminded the Hebrew exiles
to seek the welfare of the city, and
Your servant Paul worked with Priscilla and Aquila
in Corinth and Ephesus to spread the Good News.
Through the years you have surrounded cities with love and
mercy even as they have faced challenges of
poverty and pollution that threaten the life you have given
them. And so with people around the world:
from Toronto to Tokyo, and Bangkok to Bucharest,
from Anchorage to Avignon, and Saint John to Santiago,
we raise our voices in praise:

All: (singing)

(tune VU 951)

*Holy, holy, holy. Hosanna in the highest!
Let all creation praise and pray:
Save us, Holy God!*

One: We give you thanks for Jesus, born in the village of Bethlehem,
raised in the town of Nazareth,
his last days spent in the city of Jerusalem.
We remember how he brought hope and healing to all he met.
He taught us the importance of love at any cost and
spoke of God's realm where empires would be turned upside
down and peace and justice would reign.
The authorities crucified him outside the city walls,

But you raised him from the dead,
and in his resurrection, you assured us
that nothing can separate us from your love.
On the night before he died,
Jesus sat at table with his friends
in an upper room just outside Jerusalem.
He took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the loaf and passed it around the table saying ...
"take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."
When the meal was over, he took the cup saying ...
"this is the new covenant, sealed in my blood
whenever you do this, remember me."
We remember Jesus in this way now,
and with people through the ages,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: *Christ has died, is risen, will come again to meet us,
And walks with us the way of love,
Holy Kin(g)dom, come!*

Prayer for the Spirit

One: God of mystery and promise,
Fill us with an awareness of your Spirit,
and grant us faith and perseverance
to work for the day when everyone will find food and shelter
and we can live together in the new Jerusalem,
your Holy City of justice and peace.
As we eat and drink together,
make us one with Christ and one in Christ,
a sign of his transforming presence in the world.

All: (singing) (tune VU 951)
*Holy, holy, holy. Amen, we pray, with longing.
Let all creation cry, Amen!
Holy kin(g)dom come!*

The Peace

One: The Peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Intercessions

One: Let us pray. Let us pray for those who hunger in this land:

whose only kitchen is a soup kitchen,
whose only food may be what others don't want,
whose diet depends on luck, not on planning. *[pause]*
Lord, feed your people using our skills and conscience,
and eradicate from our politics and private lives
the apathy to hunger which comes from over-eating.
Let us pray for the hungry and the fed.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Let us pray for the hungry in other lands,
whose economies, burdened by debt, cannot respond to human need:
or where fields are farmed for our benefit
by low-wage workers courted by starvation. *[pause]*

Lord, feed your people –
even if rulers must cancel debt, and shareholders lose profit,
or diners restrict their choices – in order that all may be nourished.
Let us pray for the hungry and the fed.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray for those hungry for justice,
who document inequalities, demonstrate against tyranny,
distinguish between need and greed,
And are sometimes misrepresented or persecuted in the process.
[pause]

May their labour not be in vain
and may we be counted in their number.
Let us pray for the hungry and the fed.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: So, in the presence of the Bread of Life who refused food for himself
in order to nourish others,
we deepen our devotion by singing his words: (VU#959)...

All: 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.

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!

COMMUNION ANTHEM – *In the Garden*

C. Austin Miles

The Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

One: We give you thanks, creating God,
that you have blessed us at your table
and nourished us with hope.

**All: Send us out in the Spirit of Christ
to be neighbours and gardeners,
loving, tending,
and working for peace and justice
on your sacred streets and your good earth.
Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN – *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

VU 364

* COMISSIONING AND BLESSING

* SUNG BLESSING – *Go Forth with Blessing*
Go forth with blessing, go forth with peace:
Peace and joy be with you. Amen, amen.

POSTLUDE – *Aria con variazioni*

G. B. Martini

*Communion Prayers by the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hardy

* words to the communion responses by the Rev. Dr. W.S. Kervin

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

The lesson from Matthew's Gospel (Matt 5: 38-48) continues Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with an exploration of how to live out the command to love our neighbour. Jesus says that we love our neighbour by refraining from retaliating against others for the wrongs that they inflict on us. Jesus says that we love our neighbour when we respond to injustices by "turning the other cheek" and "going the extra mile." In this context, Jesus says that we love our neighbour by imitating the generous and unrestricted grace and love of God. This applies not only to those who are less fortunate than we; it applies also to those who have power over us and who occasionally misuse that power. Such a way of living is far from easy in practice, since the complicating factor is that we are not called to be self-loathing doormats either. The key seems to be integrity (a word related to "integration"). We have integrity when who we are and what we believe match. Integrity happens when what we believe translates into how we live. It happens when all our living flows from the core of our being. That is how we imitate God's character; it's how we live out God's generous and unrestricted grace, mercy and love in our relationships with those around us. That is how "you shall love your neighbour as yourself" becomes a way of life.

◆ Tax Receipts & Annual Reports Are Available ◆

Annual Reports and tax receipts are available in the office if you have not picked up a copy yet.

◆ Melrose Men's Breakfast ◆

Plan to join us **NEXT Saturday, February 18** at 9:30am. It will be full of fellowship and fun! Bring your father, sons, and grandparent! Cost is \$10 per adult. Come and have the best hot breakfast ever!

◆ Flapjack Friday ◆

Plan to join us **NEXT Friday, February 24** at 6:30pm for flapjacks. You bring the toppings - we will have the pancakes. It will be a time of feasting, community, and fun. All are welcome.

◆ **Our Adult Study...**◆

... of Diana Butler Bass's book *Grounded* begins on **March 1** at 7 at the McMaster Innovation Park. The paperback version of the book will be available shortly from the Presbytery Resource Centre at Olivet. Please see Rev. Philip who will arrange to get the book for you.

◆ **Acoustic Blend Café**◆

On **Saturday February 18** plan to attend the Acoustic Blend Café and hear The Dirty Blues Band. In the spirit of current and past acoustic waves, The Dirty Blues Band play a wide range of gritty, noisy blues. The interplay of vocals, percussive cajon, and fingerstyle guitar reminds you of the blues as they were played on your grandparents' old radio... raw, mean and stripped down to the bone. Half of the door money from this fun event goes to support Melrose United. If you are able to assist with the set-up and take down on February 18 please contact Tim Webb. Volunteers are needed!

◆ **Jamming Is Starting Again at Melrose** ◆

If anyone has empty unused 250 ml jam /jelly jars please bring them to church and place in the kitchen! We will reuse them!

◆ **Sunday School Special Request** ◆

The Sunday School program is in need of a "helper" each Sunday. Our numbers have increased and Michelle needs a second adult/teenage volunteer to help. For a list of Sundays available and to sign up please contact Sandra W. or Gwyn X. No preparation or direct leadership required.

◆ **Child and Youth Notes** ◆

Sunday School: Please note that there will be no Sunday School on **February 19**.

Thursdays are for fun: join us Thursday evening from 6pm-7pm for a fun open hour of gym time here at the church!

◆ **Thank You...** ◆

...to our February coffee hosts – Cheryl Evans & Patti Varey.



◆ **Corner Shoppe Updates** ◆

Find some ♥February Fun♥ at the Melrose Corner Shoppe! Get Inspired to; Relax, Re-Vitalize, Re-Discover, Re-Organize, Re-Visit, Re-Make, Re-Decorate! Donations are always appreciated; CDs, Books and Jewellery are currently needed.

Help Needed!

If you are at the church regularly for an existing commitment and you could spare 20 minutes extra to stock shelves before you leave please contact Claire at 905-525-1888 or leave your name and number at the church office. The more helpers, the lighter the load!! And your support will provide on-going fund-raising for Melrose!

◆ **Upcoming Dates** ◆

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY –The next Prayer Shawl group is meeting again on **Saturday, February 25**. We gather in the parlour of Melrose U. C. beginning at 9:30 am to enjoy a light snack while we work on knitting & crocheting. Supplies and patterns are available. Please drop in at any time on Saturday morning to see what is happening.

BIBLE STUDY –This group meets on **Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.** in the parlour. The current topic is "Women of the Old Testament" followed by "Women of the New Testament ". You are welcome to drop in and see if this interests you.

◆ **Hello WrapAround Hamilton Supporters** ◆

A request from WrapAround has been received for the following items:

Used vacuum cleaners (3), microwave oven, toaster,
double mattress, phone (landline)

large garbage pail with a lid (safety issue for one family)

If anyone has the item available, if they can call Elske at our WrapAround Hamilton mobile-905-3208373 or office # 905-528-0353 or through our email: elske@shalemnetwork.org or speak to Libby Cook. Thanks for any help you are able to give us.

◆ **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.



MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – February 13

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Brownies, Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour

Tuesday – February 14

Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Chapel

Wednesday – February 15

Duet Club of Hamilton	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Mindfulness Course	5:15 p.m.	Parlour
Ward 1 Workshop	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Property Committee	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

Thursday – February 16

Early Years: Newborn	9:15 a.m.	Parlour
Early Years: Family	10:30 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Thursdays are for Fun!	6:00 p.m.	Parlour, Gym
English Country Dancing	6:45 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

Friday – February 17

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Saturday – February 18

Melrose Men's Breakfast	9:30 a.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
On Course Education	11:00 a.m.	OnCourse Space
Acoustic Blend Cafe	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen

Sunday – February 19

Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Duet Club: Michael Geryk		
Memorial Piano Competition	2:30 p.m.	Sanctuary, Parlour, Kit.