

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

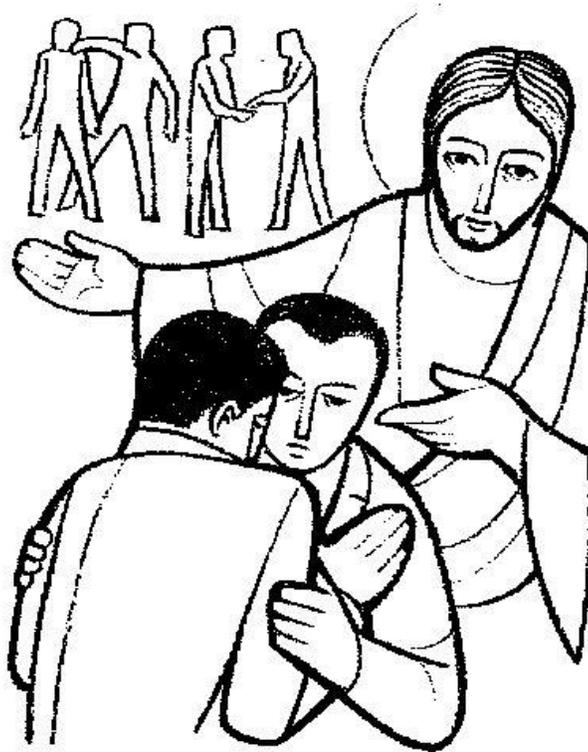
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◆ www.melroseunited.ca ◆

◆ www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch ◆

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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

◆ 19 February, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ Sunday, February 19, 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 – *Flute Solo, from Sonata in A* T. Arne

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

* OPENING HYMN – *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* VU 326

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: It is in the glow of the Christ Light that we gather.

All: In is in the glow of the Christ light that we find home.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Teach us, O God, the way of your statutes,
and we will observe it to the end.

**All: Give us understanding,
that we may keep your law
and observe it with our whole hearts.**

One: Lead us in the path of your commandments,
for we delight in it.

**All: See how we have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness give us life.**

OPENING PRAYER

**All: Divine Teacher, tell us how you would have us live.
Help us to turn the other cheek when we are wronged**

and to do so without bitterness.

Inspire us to give to those in need

and to do so without resentment.

**Turn our hearts, that we may learn how to love our neighbour,
and even our enemies.**

**Teach us and show us the way of holiness,
that we may be a holy people. Amen.**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

★ HYMN – *We Praise You for the Sun*

VU 225

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

Reader: Cheryl Evans

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 119, Part Three

VU 839

THE EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 38-48

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

★ HYMN – *Love Us into Fullness*

MV 81

SERMON – “Responsible Graciousness”

ANTHEM – *Cantique de Jean Racine*

G. Fauré

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

* OFFERING HYMN— *Called by Earth and Sky*

MV 135

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high,
this is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: We bring these offerings to you, O God,
not because you need them,
but because you are holy.
Through these resources
we ask that he who is without a coat be clothed,
and she who is hungry be fed.
We bring these gifts before you
and ask that they be used
to fulfill your holy purposes. Amen**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

concluding with a paraphrase of the Prayer of Jesus, VU 916:

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice by followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

★ CLOSING HYMN - *O Christian Love*

VU 594

★ COMISSIONING

One: If you belong to Christ, then you belong to God.

All: We belong to Christ; we are God's.

One: Go and be holy in the world, as God is holy.

**All: We will walk in the way of holiness,
giving glory to God in all that we do.**

BLESSING

★ CHORAL RESPONSE - *Go Forth with Blessing*

*Go forth with blessing, go forth with peace:
Peace and joy be with you. Amen, amen.*

POSTLUDE - *Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals*

S. Karg-Elert

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Transfiguration -- the final Sunday of the Epiphany season. "Transfiguration" is one of those odd words that we tend to encounter only in church. The thematic relationship to the Baptism of Jesus, the first Sunday in the epiphany season, is clear as we are again invited to listen with the crowds (at Jesus' Baptism) and disciples (at the Transfiguration) as a voice from heaven announces, "This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased." At the

same time, Transfiguration leans unmistakably into Lent (Ash Wednesday is March 1), as Jesus comes down from the mountain to head to the death he that speaks of during that very descent. The injunction to "listen to him" addressed to Peter, James, and John will become poignant, even painful in the weeks ahead as the disciples regularly fail to do that, or at least fail to understand what they are listening to. Those same words, addressed also to us as Jesus' current disciples, orient us to listen and watch him approach his destiny in Jerusalem so that we might more fully comprehend God's purposes. And as if all this weren't enough, Transfiguration also foreshadows Easter. As Matthew describes it, when the disciples fall to the ground in holy awe, the glorified and glowing Jesus comes to them, touches them (elsewhere in Matthew a sign of healing), and commands them not just to stand up but literally to "be raised!"

◆ **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.

◆ **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.

◆ **Flapjack Friday** ◆

Plan to join us **THIS COMING 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.

◆ **World Day of Prayer** ◆

This year's World Day of Prayer is going to be held **Friday, March 3 at 7pm** at Erskine Presbyterian Church, 19 Pearl St. N., at the corner of Pearl and Morden Streets. The theme, "Am I Being Unfair to You", was written by the WDP of the Philippines.

◆ **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!

◆ **Thank You...** ◆

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



◆ **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.

◆ **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!

◆ **Child and Youth Notes** ◆

Sunday School: Please note that there will be no Sunday School TODAY. There are entertain yourself activities over in the children’s colouring area.

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

◆ **Upcoming Dates** ◆

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY –The next Prayer Shawl group is meeting again **NEXT 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 20

Office Closed Big Book	All Day 7:00 p.m.	Parlour
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Tuesday – February 21

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

Wednesday – February 22

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 23

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 24

RSCDS	1:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Flapjack Friday	6:30 p.m.	Aud., Parlour, Kitchen

Saturday – February 25

Prayer Shawl and Outreach	9:30 a.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
On Course Education	11:00 a.m.	On COURSE Rental Area
Acoustic Blend Cafe	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen

Sunday – February 26

Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
St. John the Evangelist	2:00 p.m.	Use of Parking Lot