

# ◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

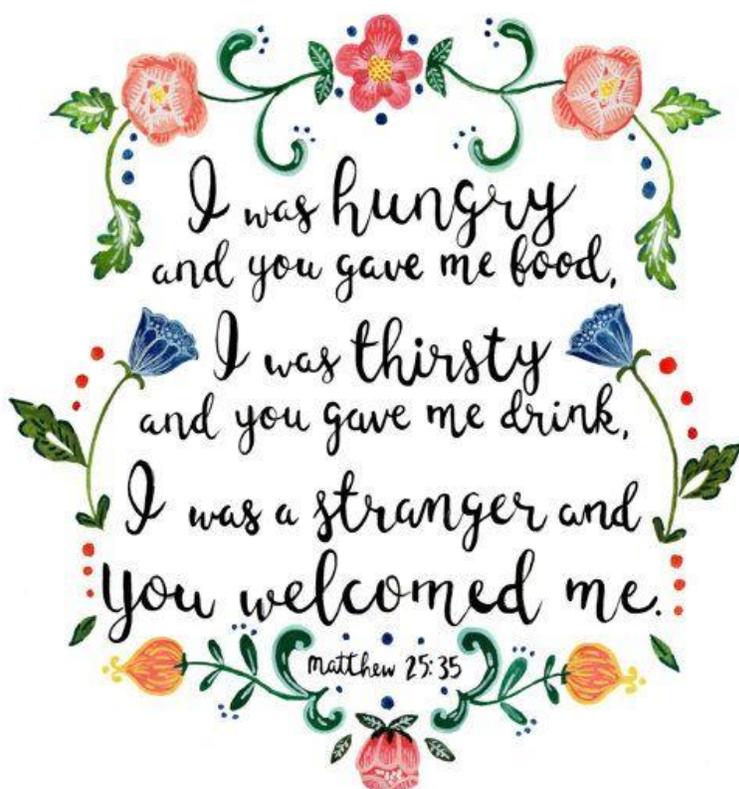
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◆ [www.melroseunited.ca](http://www.melroseunited.ca) ◆

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

◆ Twitter: @melroseunited ◆

◆ Instagram: @melroseuc ◆



Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ January 28, 2018 - 10:30 a.m. ◆

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

# MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ January 28, 2018 ◆

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIHPANY

\* 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 – Salut d'Amour

E. Elgar

INTROIT – The Lord is Gracious

G. Thalben-Ball

\* OPENING HYMN – *All Praise to Thee*

VU 327

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of the Christ has come to us.

**All: Let us celebrate God's abiding love!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here we are, Lord!

**All: You have seen us and known us from before the beginning.**

One: Here we are, Lord!

**All: Jesus, you have called us to this place.**

One: Here we are, Lord!

**All: Gracious Holy Spirit,  
inspire our hearts with courage and joy.**

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

**We've just returned from Bethlehem, dear Jesus,  
and what we saw and felt there  
brings us home on a stronger path.**

Please help us along this path,  
and be with us especially when we need Your help.  
Take us by the hand,  
and by the heart, dear Friend,  
and give our lives the support we might need.  
Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

★ HYMN- *We are Marching in the light of God*

VU 646

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Shari Saunders

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Leviticus 19: 9-18

One: The Word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 25: 31, 34-40

One: This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

★ HYMN- *When I Needed a Neighbour*

VU 600

SERMON - "When I Needed a Neighbour"

- Shari Saunders and Ted Lowrey

ANTHEM - The Lord is My Shepherd

J. Rutter

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN – *Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness* HB 33 Verse 4  
*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,  
bow down before God, God's glory proclaim  
Gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,  
These are the offerings we lay at God's shrine.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**Loving God,  
these gifts which we give  
are gifts to us in return,  
for in giving we become  
what you long for us to be:  
generous and compassionate people.  
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 be 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 – *For the Healing of the Nations*

VU 678

★ COMMISIONING AND BLESSING

One: God of the Way,  
you are the road we travel,  
and the sign we follow;  
you are bread for the journey,  
and the wine of arrival.

One: Guide us as we follow in your way,  
holding on to each other,  
reaching out to your beloved world.

**All: And when we stray,  
seek us out and find us,  
set our feet on the path again,  
and lead us safely home.**

**In the name of Jesus, our Companion, we pray.  
Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE -- I am the Light of the World

VU 87

*“I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me.”  
If you follow and love  
you’ll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.*

POSTLUDE – Two Trumpet Tunes and Air

H. Purcell

♦ **Worship Next Week** ♦

There will be a dual focus in our worship for the fifth Sunday of Epiphany. Through the Sacrament of Baptism we will welcome Angus Ryan Beattie to our Melrose Church family. Angus is the son of Scot and Lisa Beattie and brother to Declan, Rowan and Olive. The sermon time will focus on a healing story from the Gospel of Mark. In Year B of the ecumenical lectionary, the Sundays of Epiphany offer sequential gospel readings from the opening of Mark that are intended to inspire us, lift us and draw us into the story of God's good news found in the story of Jesus. Though we are now arriving at the fifth Sunday of Epiphany, we still have only reached verse 29 of Mark's first chapter! As is Mark's tendency, however we are proceeding at quite a pace. After Jesus leaves the synagogue (where he has demonstrated both wisdom and the power to heal), he goes to the home of Simon Peter, whose mother-in-law is dangerously ill. Jesus' healing power extends even here, and we get an anticipatory glimpse of just where this story and the entire mission might lead us. According to Mark, Jesus took the woman by the hand and "lifted her up" (verse 31). The Greek literally reads "he raised her." It is likely no accident that here for the first time in Mark our imaginations are teased with this promissory "good news" word which will follow the story of Jesus (eighteen times in the gospel) to its surprising, climactic resurrection ending.

♦ **Thank you** ♦

...to our January coffee hosts – Denise and Phil Farrauto

♦ **We want your used stamps!** ♦

Melrose United Church continues to support EffectHope (Leprosy Mission of Canada) in their ongoing efforts to eradicate Leprosy. Please drop off your stamps at the Church Office in care of Gwyn.

◆ **Melrose Corner Shoppe** ◆

Renew! Revitalize! Reorganize!

New items are added every week, plan to check it out after church today!

◆ **Family Ministry Updates** ◆

With 2018 in full swing, I wanted to share some exciting Family Ministries updates with you all.

**TGIF** – Save the Date! Our next TGIF will be Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> (just in time to have some Valentine's themed fun). Just a reminder that our TGIF events are for all ages and are also a great way for parents to connect with one another over a potluck dinner and fellowship time.

**March Break** – We are looking at planning a morning of fun during the March Break on Wednesday March.14<sup>th</sup>. If you could please let me know if your kids are free on this day and are interested in participating that would be wonderful.

**Sunday School Update** - It has been wonderful to see so many kids of all ages joining us on Sunday mornings. In order to ensure all of our young people are getting the most out of the lesson time, we are looking at dividing Sunday School into two age groups for younger and older kids. In order to facilitate this, we are looking for volunteers! We will be launching a brand new curriculum in February called *What's in the Bible*. All volunteers will be given a lesson plan and resources. Please let me know if you are interested in signing up for a Sunday.

◆ **A special thank you...**◆

The office received a lovely card recently from Bert Carter regarding the cookies that were brought around near Christmastime and wanted to share a portion of it with everyone:

“Thank you to the cookie elves. The cookies are delicious!”

◆ **Jam Jars Needed!** ◆

It's marmalade making time at Melrose! If anyone has jam jars (must be 250ml size) and not using them, we will gladly accept them and use them. Please drop the jars off in the church kitchen anytime. Thanks so much! Jars

are the most expensive part of preserve making, so keeping the costs down helps make the profits from the Locke Street Festival higher!

◆ **Study Leave Staffing** ◆

Rev. Philip will be on study leave until today, January 29th. The Rev. Jane Wyllie from First-Pilgrim United Church will be covering urgent pastoral care for the week. Jane can be reached at 905-522-9900 or email: [jane.wyllie@gmail.com](mailto:jane.wyllie@gmail.com).

◆ **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 – January 29

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

### Tuesday - January 30

Yoga Class	7:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

### Wednesday - January 31

Duet Club Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Mindfulness Workshop	5:15 p.m.	Parlour
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room

### Thursday - February 1

Early Years Workshop	9:15 a.m.	Parlour
<b>Melrose Bible Study</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
Early Years Workshop	10:30 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
RSCDS Dancing	1:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
English Country Dancing	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
<b>Melrose Choir Practice</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
West Hamilton U12 Soccer	7:30 p.m.	Gymnasium

### Friday – February 2

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### Saturday - February 3

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### Sunday – February 4

<b>Melrose Choir Practice</b>	<b>9:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
<b>Melrose Worship</b>	<b>10:30a.m.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>

