

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

905 522 1323 ◆ melrose@melroseunited.ca

◆ www.melroseunited.ca ◆

◆ 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

◆ 19 March, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Third Sunday of Lent

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, March 12, 2017 ◆

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

* 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

INTROIT-- *Who Can Save Us, Lord, But Thou*

E. Daley

* OPENING HYMN – *Through These Lenten Days and Nights*

VU 108

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Christ, be our light.

All: Shine in our hearts; shine in your church, gathered today.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to the well of fear and doubt.

All: We have drawn deeply of those waters.

One: We come to the well of anger and hate.

All: These waters flourish in all the land.

One: God, bring us to the water of peace and hope.

All: God, bring us to the well of salvation.

PRAYER AND CANDLE FOR LENT III

**All: Holy God, out of your great love for the world,
you reconciled earth to heaven through your
beloved child, Jesus. Fill us with your tender
mercy so that we may all be reconciled to one
another. May we have the courage to forgive
those who have offended us and the faith to
trust in your redemptive love for us.**

(three purples candle are lit)

RESPONSE (sung)

MV 67

One: *Kyrie eleison,*

All: *Kyrie eleison,*

One: *Christe eleison,*

All: *Christe eleison,*

One: *Kyrie eleison,*

All: *Kyrie eleison.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God's love is sure and steadfast,
always providing a way out,
a way through,
a way back to God.

All: **With gratitude, in faith,
we will walk the way of Christ. Amen.**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

★ HYMN – *By the Well, a Thirsty Woman*

VU 117

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Bob Ross

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 95

VU 814

THE GOSPEL: John 4: 5-42

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON – “Holy Conversation”

ANTHEM – *Who Shall Abide*

W. Pelz

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

★ OFFERING HYMN—*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (vs. 4) VU 149

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**Life-giving God,
we offer you ourselves and our resources.
Use us and our gifts, that we may be water bearers
to a world thirsty for love, for meaning, for justice, and for hope.
May all your people encounter fullness of life
through the love of Christ, which lives within us.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

(concluding with The Prayer of Jesus)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

★ CLOSING HYMN—*I Heard the Voice of Jesus*

VU 626

★ COMMISSIONING

One: On this third Sunday of Lent,
we are urged to shake off the complacency that
can overtake us;
to seek God as people in a dry and weary land seek water;
and to bear fruit in our daily lives
that contributes to God's realm of justice and love.

★ BLESSING

**All: May the mercy of God ground us,
the love of Christ take root in us,
and the Holy Spirit grow in us,
that we may be ready for the coming of God's reign. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE – *Go Forth with Blessing*
Go forth with blessing, go forth with peace:
Peace and joy be with you. Amen. Amen.

POSTLUDE

◆ **Melrose Events** ◆

◆ **Worship Next Week** ◆

The gospel reading for the fourth Sunday of the Lenten season is another in a series of encounters with Jesus in the Gospel of John, this one focused on the theme of seeing rightly. Blindness and sight are explicitly mentioned in 24 of the chapter's 41 verses, including the first and last ones. The details of the miracle itself are repeated four times -- that Jesus put mud on the eyes of the blind man and then he regained his sight. At the centre of the narrative, standing before the healing and eternally after it, is Jesus, the giver of sight, the very light of the world in which true sight becomes possible. Underlying the discussion of light and sight and blindness is a question about who Jesus is, the question that stretches across all the Lenten texts. Alongside this in chapter 9 is the question of who is sinful and what constitutes sin. Sinfulness as a secondary theme is introduced already in

the initial question of the disciples when they see the man born blind and ask Jesus whose sin was the source of his blindness, his or his parents'. Jesus rejects this interpretation of the man's blindness, which he interprets instead as an opening for the glory of God to be revealed while it is day and the light of the world is active. Fundamentally, however, this is a story about grace. The healed blind man sums it up beautifully for all of us: "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

◆ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** ◆

Please join us at 9:30 am on **Saturday, March 25th** in the church parlour. Wool, instructions & knitting needles are available. Come join the fun. Thank you to Barb Mann for hosting this date.

◆ **Melrose Tour** ◆

The property committee is planning a tour of Melrose United after the service on **April 2nd**. The signup sheet will be in available during coffee after services the next two Sundays. After the tour you'll be able to answer this question: In what sport has Melrose United Church won a provincial gold & national silver medals?

◆ **Thank You...** ◆

...to our March coffee hosts - Barb and Keith Mann.



◆ **Spring Cleaning Time** ◆

Please check out the marked pile of unclaimed goods in the kitchen (dishes, platters etc.) and see if any belong to you. Any unclaimed goods will be donated to Bibles for Mission on March 27.

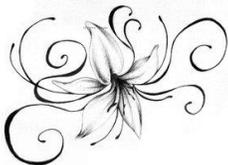
◆ **Water Changes Everything** ◆

Join us this coming **Saturday March 25 @ 6:30pm - Melrose United Church** auditorium. Come out for an evening on Earth Hour to engage in understanding water usage and water conservation. Guest Speaker, Mike Nagy, will talk about Water usage in Wellington County where Nestle uses the water table for profit. There will be displays and refreshments. Free admission, however donation at the doors will be accepted.

◆ **Our Adult Study....** ◆

... of Diana Butler Bass's book *Grounded* began on **March 1 at 7 p.m.** at the McMaster Innovation Park. It continues March 22 and 29. You are welcome to attend any or all sessions. The book is available from the Hamilton Presbytery Resource Centre at Olivet United Church.

◆ **Easter and Chancel Flowers and Gifts** ◆



Memorial donations for Easter and Chancel Flowers and Gifts will be accepted until **Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017**. Celebrate the memory of someone special to you and your family with a donation to the Easter and Chancel Flower and Gift Fund.

The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary on **Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017**, and on other special Sundays throughout the year. Special donation envelopes are available in the narthex and in the sanctuary, with an enclosed paper for writing memorial names.

◆ **Corner Shoppe Updates** ◆

- **It's time to March Into March!** The Melrose Corner Shoppe can help "Spiff Up Your Space", "Re-Stock Your Reading", "Keep Track of Your Time", and "Stash Your Stuff"! Donations of books, CDs and jewelry are much appreciated.
- Shoppe proceeds from Feb. 15 to March 15 were \$234.30. New stock is added weekly so keep dropping in to browse! Since roof repairs have been fully paid, Shoppe proceeds will be put toward stained glass window repairs. Revenue updates will continue to be posted here.



Micah House in Hamilton...

...is a **home** for people seeking asylum from danger, terror & persecution.

When **refugee claimants** arrive, they are lonely, confused and unsure about what is required of them.

Micah House helps them at this vulnerable point by providing specific assistance to bring direction and hope to their circumstances.

(continued...)

Our **guests** tell us that when they were at a low point in their life Micah House became their **family** when they were separated from their own. Micah House welcomes newly arrived refugee claimants to Hamilton with God's love by providing safe shelter, assisting with settlement and creating passages into the community.

The Social Justice Committee is pleased to sponsor **Coffee Hour on April 2** to raise donations and awareness for Micah House. Please consider staying for coffee and refreshments and making a donation that will go directly to Micah House to assist them with the support of refugees that enter Hamilton.

◆ **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.

◆ **Bible Study Dates** ◆ 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.

◆ **Child and Youth Notes** ◆

Thursdays are for fun: join us Thursday evening from 6pm-7pm for a fun open hour of gym time here at the church! All ages welcome, under age 6 requires parental accompaniment.

◆ **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 – March 20

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Guides, Brownies	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour, Auditorium
Wrap-Around Meeting	7:15 p.m.	Chapel
Property Committee	7:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room

Tuesday – March 21

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

Wednesday March 22

Duet Club of Hamilton	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Adult Study	7:00 p.m.	McMaster Innovation Park

Thursday – March 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.	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 – March 24

RSCDS	1:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
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Saturday - March 25

Prayer Shawl & Outreach Ministry	9:30 a.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
On Course Education	11:00 a.m.	On Course Rental Area
Water Changes Everything	6:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen
Tom Schilling: Master Class	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

Sunday – March 26

Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary