

# ◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

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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

◆ 26 March, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Fourth Sunday of Lent

# MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 ◆

FOURTH 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 ◆

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## ◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE – *Prelude in B-flat minor*, WTC 1

J. S. Bach

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

E. Daley

\* OPENING HYMN – *Now Quit Your Care*

VU 109

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: When the world is dark and full of hatred and fear,  
when we cannot see God

**All: we will turn on the light.**

One: When we cannot find our way back to love and peace

**All: we will turn on the light.**

One: When our vision dims because of the darkness within

**All: we will turn on the light.**

One: Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.

**All: The light of the world is Jesus Christ.**

One: Come and worship the one  
who brings sight to the blind.

**All: Praise God, the light of the world!**

PRAYER AND CANDLE FOR LENT IV.

**All:** *Jesus, you gave your life for love of us.*

**Teach us to care for one another with that same selfless love. May our lives witness the joy of serving you and humankind. May our hearts feel the peace of surrendering completely to you, so that we may help to make your kingdom come. Amen.**

*(three purple candles and one pink 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: In the midst of any darkness, God's light is poured out on you. Accept the light and love that is freely offered, and be transformed by its healing mercies.

**All: Amen.**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

★ HYMN – *Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold*

VU 605

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Janelle Windhorst

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 23 (Refrain 1)

VU 749

THE GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

\* HYMN – *Just as I am*

VU 508

SERMON – “Learning to Ask the Right Questions”

ANTHEM – *O Lord, Bend Down Thine Ear*

Palestrina

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

\* OFFERTORY HYMN – *Before I Take the body of My Lord*

VU 462

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**In gratitude, O God, we come to your table,  
into your presence, into your house.**

**For all that you have done for us,  
most especially, for welcoming us  
into the light of Jesus Christ,  
we offer our thanks and praise.**

**Accept what we bring  
for your own good and holy purposes.  
In Christ we pray. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT 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 all 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: Creating God

we marvel at the architecture of the universe you have made.

We thank you for your gracious desire to keep us close to you.

We love the light that you have given us through time,

and over and over again.

The light of your love that you have shared with us

shines through each part of creation,

in all those who have served you and revered you in the past,

from ancient times to now, and also in us and through us.

We praise you for the gift of your son, the Light of the World,

who came to give sight to the blind and set the prisoners free.

We offer you thanks for all of our ancestors in faith –

people who have seen the light in their hearts

and shared it with each other and with strangers.

Glory to You for the light we share.

May it shine on forever and ever,

blessing each one of us with faith, hope and love.

Because you have shared with us, and in communion with saints

before our time and after our time, we glorify you,

O Holy Presence, Most High:

**All (singing): *Holy, holy, holy Lord***

*God of power and God of might,*

*heaven and earth are full,*

*heaven and earth are full,*

*heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Choir: Heaven and earth are full of your glory

VU 936

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

**All:**     *Hosanna, hosanna,  
          hosanna in the highest.*

Choir: Blessed is he  
          who comes in the name of the Lord.

**All**       *Blessed is he  
          who comes in the name of the Lord.  
          Hosanna, hosanna,  
          hosanna in the highest.*

*The Words of Institution and Prayer for the Spirit*

One: On the night he was betrayed,  
      the Light of the World took bread and blessed it.  
      Then he thanked God for it and broke it, saying:  
      “This is my body which is broken for you.  
      Whenever you eat it, remember me.”  
      And likewise at the end of the meal, Jesus took the cup,  
      blessed it and thanked God for it.  
      Pouring out the wine, he said:  
      “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you.  
      Whenever you drink this cup, remember me.”  
      Great is the mystery of faith.

**All (singing):** *Christ has died  
                  Christ is risen.  
                  Christ will come again.*

VU 939

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
      and upon these your gifts of bread and wine.  
      Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ  
      that we may be for the world  
      the body of Christ.  
      Send us out in the power of the Spirit  
      to live for others, as Christ lived for us.  
      By your Spirit draw us together into one body

and join us to Christ the Lord,  
that we may remain his glad and faithful people.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour are yours, almighty God,  
forever and ever.

**All (singing):**

VU 939

*Amen, amen, amen.*

### The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

(you are invited to share the Peace with one another)

### Intercessions

One: At this time, we also remember all with whom you would have us share your feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain, all who are ill or alone. We pray for all whose who suffer loss through natural disaster or human wrongdoing, those who are constricted by fear and anxiety. We pray for ourselves and for our church that we may always strive for justice, mercy and peace in the name of the one who taught us to pray together, singing (VU#95)

*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. Amen.*

### The Sharing of the Elements

One: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.  
The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion  
of the blood of Christ

## Agnus Dei

VU 940

Choir: *Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;  
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;  
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.*

*(our communion today will be received by intinction. If you are able, please come forward up the centre aisle. Pick up a piece of bread from the tray, dip it in the cup and **consume it immediately**, returning to your seats via the side aisles. The **multi-coloured** chalices contain **grape juice**, the **dark green** chalices contain **wine**. If you are unable to come forward, servers will gladly come and serve you in the pew. Please help them to locate you.)*

## Communion Anthem

### The Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

**All: We thank you, God, for the gifts you have given us:  
for the bread of our being loved, for the wine of our joy,  
for our life together as a people  
ready to do the work of love and justice.  
As we continue our Lenten journey,  
we pray that having been refreshed at this table,  
we may be bread and wine for each other  
and for the world. Amen.**

★ CLOSING HYMN – *Hail to God's Own Anointed*

VU 30

★ COMISSIONING & BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE – *Go Forth with Blessing*

*Go forth with blessing, go forth with peace:*

*Peace and joy be with you. Amen. Amen.*

POSTLUDE—*Fugue in B-flat minor, WTC 1*

J. S. Bach

## ◆ Melrose Events ◆

### ◆ Worship Next Week ◆

The gospel reading this Sunday, which tells of the raising of Lazarus, concludes a sequence of lengthy readings from the Gospel of John. The sequence in John's gospel is in many ways the opposite of the children's game, "Show and Tell." For John, it is "Tell and Show." The prologue ("In the beginning ...") *tells* us that Jesus is the light and life of the world. The rest of the gospel *shows* us how this is true. The giving of sight to the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus from the dead *show* us Jesus giving light and life to particular human beings, but we are also invited to see ourselves in these biblical figures. For example, we are to see ourselves in Lazarus, whose name (a shortened form of Eleazar) means "God helps." He is from a town whose name, Bethany, means "House of Affliction." So God helps one who suffers from affliction. John takes a friendship between Jesus and this family and a rather startling event and shapes it to his own theological purpose. Lazarus is the "one Jesus loves"; he represents all those whom Jesus loves, which includes all of humankind. This story, then, is the story of our coming to life from death in this present moment, not just in a future event. The Fourth Gospel repeatedly uses the physical realm as a metaphorical pointer to the spiritual realm. Water is a metaphor for the quenching of our spiritual thirst -- Jesus is the living water. The bread Jesus multiplies to feed a large crowd is a metaphor for the satisfaction of our spiritual hunger. Sight is a metaphor for the spiritual vision and clarity that Jesus supplies: Jesus is the light of the world. In the story of Lazarus, raised from the dead, the restoration of physical life is a metaphor for breaking free from the bonds of spiritual death into the gift of eternal life that Jesus brings. For Jesus is, as John reminds us, "the resurrection and the life."

### ◆ Our Adult Study.... ◆

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

### ◆ **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 **TOMORROW, March 27.**

### ◆ **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?

### ◆ **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.

### ◆ **Women in Touch** ◆

The WIT dinner is happening on **Wednesday, April 12,** starting at 6:30 pm in the parlour. Come join us for an evening of fun and bring a dish to share with all. Our guest for this date is **Corrine Hardie,** executive director of **Helping Hands Street Mission.** She will share with us changes that have occurred over the last few years and current needs for the mission.

### ◆ **Supper in the Sanctuary** ◆

There will be a potluck supper in the Sanctuary at 6:15pm on **April 13, 2017.**

This is an intergenerational celebration of Maundy Thursday. All families and friends of Melrose are welcomed to attend.



Come and share in the spirit of the season.

## ◆ **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.

## ◆ **News from the Melrose Office** ◆

From **Thursday, April 20 to Friday, April 28** Pam and Michelle will both be on holidays. If you have any requests for bulletin announcements or space use, please forward them to the office by **Friday, April 14**. Further details for office coverage during this time will be posted as soon as decided.

Pam's vacation will continue, into May with her return to work scheduled for **Tuesday, May 16**. During this latter period of time, Michelle will be in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

## ● **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.

## ◆ **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** ◆

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

## ◆ **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.



## **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.

**You are invited to Holy Week and  
Easter at Melrose**

Sunday April 9 at 10:30– Palm/Passion Sunday - Procession with Palms

Thursday April 13 at 6:15 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Potluck and  
Communion in the Sanctuary

Friday April 14 at 10:30 – Good Friday service – Choral Music from Bach’s  
St. Matthew Passion

Sunday April 16 at 8:00 – Easter Sunrise service in the chapel

Sunday April 16 at 9:00 – Easter Breakfast – Free-will donations will be  
accepted to benefit to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Sunday April 16 at 10:30 – Easter Worship with Communion

Wednesday May 10 – Melrose Seder Dinner, details TBA

**All are welcome!**



**MELROSE UNITED CHURCH**

86 Homewood Avenue

(corner of Locke Street – parking on Stanley Avenue)

905-522-1323

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## MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Monday – March 27

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
<b>MONTHLY FIRE DRILL</b>	<b>2:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Entire facility</b>
Guides, Brownies	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour, Auditorium
Big Book	7:45 p.m.	Auditorium

### Tuesday – March 28

<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Parlour</b>
Locke St. BIA Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Aud., Sanctuary

### Wednesday March 29

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

### Thursday – March 30

Early Years: Newborn	9:15 a.m.	Parlour
Early Years: Family	10:30 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
<b>Thursdays Are For Fun</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Gym</b>
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 – March 31

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### Saturday - April 1

On Course Education	11:00 a.m.	On Course Rental Area
Tom Schilling: Master Class	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

### Sunday – April 2

<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>9:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
<b>Melrose Worship</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Worship Committee</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Parlour</b>
Symphony on the Bay	3:00 p.m.	Sanctuary