

◆ 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

◆ 28 May, 2017 - 10:30 a.m. ◆

Ascension Sunday

Conference Sunday

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, May 28TH, 2017 ◆

ASCENSION SUNDAY

CONFERENCE SUNDAY

* 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 – *Chanson de Matin* E. Elgar

INTROIT – *Rise Up My Love* H. Willan

* OPENING HYMN – *All hail the Power of Jesus' Name* VU 334

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ is in the world.

**All: And we are his hands, eyes and feet, a benediction to all
God's people.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come and worship, people of God!

All: Let us celebrate with songs of praise!

One: For our God – the Most High – is seated on God's holy throne,
Sovereign over all the earth!

All: Let us worship God together.

DIALOGUE FOR ASCENSION

One: Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!

All: The Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Alleluia!

One: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

All: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

One: The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand."

**All: The Lord is high above all nations; his glory above the
heavens!**

One: He came forth from God, and has come into the world.

All Again he leaves the world and goes to God.

One: Alleluia! He ascends to my God and your God.

All: He will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

★ HYMN - *The Spring Has Come*

VU 187

Reader: Michael Clase

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 47 (Refrain 1)

VU 771

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1: 6-14

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

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

★ HYMN - *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*

VU 189

SERMON - "I Am with You Always"

ANTHEM - *O Clap Your Hands*

R. Vaughan Williams

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

- ★ OFFERTORY HYMN – *There in God's Garden* VU 346 (Verse 6)
*All heaven is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy healing strength and pardon.
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Saviour!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**Living God, your Son Jesus Christ
at his ascension gave gifts to his church.
Lead us, as members of his body on earth,
to use the gifts we have received
to heal the world you so love. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

(concluding with the Prayer of Jesus, VU 914)

- ★ CLOSING HYMN – *Lord, You Gave the Great Commission* VU 512
- ★ COMMISSIONING & BLESSING
- ★ CHORAL RESPONSE – VU 974
Amen, Amen, Amen.

POSTLUDE

Service Conducted by Margaret Duff

Guest Preacher – the Rev. Dr. Francis Chisholm

This year Dr. Chisholm celebrates the
sapphire anniversary
(65 years) of his ordination.
Congratulations and well done, Francis!

◆ **Worship Next Week** ◆

Next Sunday is the Feast of Pentecost which marks the birthday of the whole Church. For Christians, Pentecost is the holy day when we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost (which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection) there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church began. The English word "Pentecost" is a transliteration of the Greek *pentekostos*, which means "fifty". Christians didn't invent the phrase, they borrowed it from Greek-speaking Jews who used it to refer to *Shavuot*, the Festival of Weeks (fifty days from the end of Passover), a spring harvest festival. The day is especially significant for Christians because it was seven weeks after the Resurrection, during *Shavuot*, that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon Jesus' first followers, empowering them for mission and gathering them as a church. The English poet, Christina Rossetti wrote the following prayer in celebration of Pentecost: *O God the Holy Ghost, who art light unto thine elect, evermore enlighten us. Thou who art fire of love, evermore enkindle us. Thou who art Lord and Giver of Life, evermore live in us. Thou who bestowest sevenfold grace, evermore replenish us. As the wind is thy symbol, so forward our goings. As the dove, so launch us heavenwards. As water, so purify our spirits. As a cloud, so abate our temptations. As dew, so revive our languor. As fire, so purge our dross. Amen.*

◆ **Case for Kids** ◆

Wesley Case for Kids is NEXT **Sunday June 4th**! Check out the signs on the bulletin board or talk to Gwyn X. for information. For sign up forms check the church office. Rev. Gardner will be walking and will be happily accepting monetary donations.

◆ **Steel City Event** ◆

On **Tuesday, June 3 @ 10:30 a.m.** for the unveiling of the **Hamilton/Afghanistan War Monument** at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope. For more information check out: www.nwrasteelcity.com.

◆ **Still Needed** ◆

250 ml Mason or Bernardin jam jars are still needed for the beginning of the Melrose jamming season. Please drop off any unwanted jars to the kitchen.

◆ **Are you upgrading this summer?** ◆

If you are upgrading your lawn mower this year please consider donating your old machine to the church. Our current mower desperately needs to be replaced.



◆ **Spring Cleaning with the SJC** ◆

The Social Justice Committee can always find a good home for those little samples of shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. that hotels and dentists like to share. Please drop off any unopened personal hygiene products in the Helping Hands blue bin, located in the auditorium.

◆ **Melrose Church Picnic**◆

The Melrose Church Picnic will be taking place on **June 11 @ Dundas Driving Park in Pavilion 2/3**. We will be having an informal service outside in the park followed by a picnic lunch. All are welcome! Invite your friends and families.

Please bring a lawn chair, splash pad swimming supplies, your own beverages and a potluck dish to share. Rain or Shine.

◆ **Women in Touch – WIT – Wed. June 14** ◆

The WIT potluck dinner will be held in the parlour beginning at **6:30pm**. Our guest for the evening is **Marion Sewell-Sneyd**. She will share with us her experiences as a volunteer with **Child Haven International**. Check out: www.childhaven.ca. Please join us to share food, fun and fellowship.

◆ **Child and Youth Notes** ◆

Please note there is **no Thursday night programming again until September**. The final Sunday School lesson for the school year will be June 4th.

◆ **May in the Corner Shoppe** ◆

"*Everything's Coming Up Roses*" in May at the Melrose Corner Shoppe! Be sure to check it out for some 'Up-Cycling Inspiration' and some 'Spring-Time Cheer'! All proceeds go to Melrose Stained Glass Window Repairs.

◆ **We Need You!** ◆

Have you considered becoming a full member of the Melrose community? One of the benefits of full membership is that your voice will be heard on any matters pertaining to the *spiritual* health of the congregation. If you are interested in more information, speak to Rev. Philip. Our plan is receive new members at the Pentecost worship service on June 4th if there are any folk interested.

◆ **Bible Study** ◆

The Tuesday morning Bible Study group will be taking a break for the summer and will resume again in October. Watch the bulletin for details.

◆ **Financial Update** ◆

During the first four months of 2017, donations have been about \$3,000 less than they were last year. This is a decrease of 10 percent. While the numbers of contributors and amounts received through PAR have increased, there has been a large reduction in "collection plate" donations. It will require a considerable increase in donations over the remaining months for us to reach our year's target of a \$2,400 increase. Please give serious consideration of whether you can increase your donations.

Our rental income during this period has increased by \$2,200 compared to 2016. The departure of one of our tenants, OnCourse, will reduce our income over the coming months. However, we are negotiating with Little Learning House for the rental of the vacated space. It is likely that Melrose will need to make some renovations on a short time-frame. If so, the Official Board will probably need to request the congregation's approval in the fall to obtain additional funds from the Trustees.

It has been necessary to obtain \$30,000 from the Trustees in order to cover expenses over the four months.

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.

Extreme Hunger Appeal

The United Church of Canada is launching an **Extreme Hunger Appeal** as the humanitarian crisis in Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen reaches grave levels.

[Starvation and extreme hunger](#) are rapidly reaching a scale the world has not seen before in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen. There is also extreme hunger, malnutrition, and starvation in Kenya. Vulnerable people are most impacted, including children.

Small-scale farmers supply the majority of food in Africa. But climate change has created a devastating and prolonged drought, resulting in both water and food shortages. Farmers are unable to grow crops and their livestock have died. Ongoing conflict is also contributing to the crisis as many families are forced to flee their homes, farms, and livelihoods. The people of Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Kenya urgently need your help. All donations raised for this appeal will go to our long-term Mission & Service partners, including [ACT Alliance](#), which is saving lives in the region. This Extreme Hunger Appeal follows the Drought Appeal for Africa that the United Church launched last April. Many United Church members have also generously given to the Canada Food Grains Bank, which is providing emergency food relief.

Please consider using the specially designated envelopes in the pew or chapel chair and donating to this Mission and Services Project. The Social Justice Committee will be collecting the envelopes throughout the month of June.

VBS: Hero Central is coming!
August 7 -11 from 8:30am-12:00pm.



Registration forms available at the office and online

Ages 5-11 for main camp, Teens welcome for CIT (counsellors in training, including opportunities for volunteer service hours)

Please plan to sign up your kids! Sign up your friends' kids! Sign up your neighbors' kids! Sign up kids you find walking down the street! Encourage all those you know to participate. It is a top notch program run by great people through Hamilton Presbytery. Rev. Philip and the CD Team will also be involved in many key parts. The day camp is an excellent ministry opportunity and it is a chance to share with our friends, acquaintances, coworkers and community what Melrose has to offer.

We will be recruiting help in the following ways:

- 1. Snack team Members:** We are looking for two people to sign up for each morning we are hosting and to handle the preparing and cleaning up of snacks. Supplies will be provided if required. We have a very detailed guide complete with photo instructions. Commitment of time would approximately 2 hours per morning.
- 2. Registration Team members:** Each morning we will need 1-2 people to cover the registration desk when the children arrive and leave. It will only require a commitment from 8:30-9:15 and 12:00-12:30.
- 3. Promote!** Please share with those around you and in your workplace that the camp is taking place. In order for this to be a success we need children to attend.
- 4. Prayer, patience and support.** There will be a lot of little ones tramping all over the place during that week. This is an opportunity to serve our community with a free day camp (free will offering to cover our cost of \$500 for the week would be gratefully accepted) and share our message with those around us.

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – May 29

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

Tuesday - May 30

Bach Elgar Auditions	6:00 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Wednesday - May 31

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
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Thursday – June 1

Early Years	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Martial Arts	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
English Country Dancing	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium

Friday – June 2

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Saturday - June 3

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Sunday – June 4

Melrose Worship	10:30a.m.	Sanctuary
Worship Committee Mtg.	11:30 a.m.	Chapel