

◆ 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 ◆

MUSIC

Sunday



Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Child & Youth Coordinator:

Michelle Millson

Custodian:

Lee Stallard

Office Administrator:

Pamela Kovacek

◆ 7 May, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Music Sunday

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, May 7th, 2017 ◆

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MUSIC 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 -- *Antiphon III (Song of Songs 1:5)*

M. Dupré

INTROIT – *Take, O Take Me as I Am*

MV 85

* OPENING HYMN – *Love Knocks and Waits*

MV 94

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ is in the world.

All: God's Resurrection love burns in our hearts.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In this place, our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds in our hearts:

All: calling us to generous acts, to share the gifts we have been given.

One: Now, our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds in our land:

All: calling us to generous acts, to open our hearts to all in need.

One: In every place, in every moment, our Beloved speaks to us;
the voice of our Beloved sounds in all creation:

All: calling us to generous acts, to stand with God's people: the least, the lost, the little, the last.

OPENING PRAYER (said by all):
Light-giving God:
our praises spring up
like flowers on a spring day;
our songs of joy are lifted to you;
our hearts overflow with
your kindness and generosity.

Jesus, Beloved Child:
you look through the lattice of the world
at our lives, our hearts, our souls.
You speak to us with tenderness and strength,
calling us to come away from rigid legalism
to lives of grace and hope.

Truth-speaking Spirit:
we look in a mirror
and see God's child;
we walk away
and forget whose we are.
Move within us and reshape us
into God's beloved children,
living within that circle of blessing
called the kingdom. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

★ HYMN – *Called by Earth and Sky*

MV 135

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

ANTHEM – *Rise Up, My Love*

H. Willan

Reader: Margaret Duff

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 45

VU 769

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Song of Songs 2: 8-13

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: John 15: 12-17

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY - "The Time of Singing"

ANTHEM - *Moonlit Garden*

A. Birkhead-Flight

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

★ OFFERTORY HYMN – *The King of Love*

VU 273

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**Living God, we thank you for your gifts of life --
fragrant flowers, fruitful vines, singing creatures,
and our own lives, renewed in Christ.**

**Let your grace infuse the gifts we offer
with life-giving power for those in need.**

**In the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer we pray,
Amen.**

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 this Easter feast.
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 family 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: Our hearts overflow with praise and thanksgiving,
 God, our God!

Your Beloved's voice spoke to chaos,
calling forth the flowers of grace
which bloom in our hearts.

Because you love righteousness,
you would anoint us with the oil of joy
and clothe us in the robes of mercy and goodness.

But we break your heart by embracing
the very wickedness you hate,
staining our lives with sin and death.

Still, you love us and seek us out,
for in Christ your grace has defeated sin
and the Risen Lord has opened the way

to life in your kingdom

So, we lift our voices in joy and hope,
singing with the choirs of angels in heaven,
and with all the faithful of every place and time,
singing of your glory forever:

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

VU 936

*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
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.*

One: Look, he comes!

Your Beloved Child,
Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Saviour, our Companion,
the joy of your Heart.

Gazing into our souls, he sees our emptiness
and fills us with your grace;
listening to our pain, he is quick to speak
healing and hope to us;
the perfect gift of life, he declares that sin is past,
death is over and gone,
and resurrection blossoms in our hearts forever.
As you have called him Beloved at his baptism,

and as you raised him from death to give us life,
so we give ourselves to live for him
in grateful praise and service:

The Words of Institution and Prayer for the Spirit

One: We give you thanks that Jesus, on the night
before he died, took bread and after he gave you thanks
He broke it and gave it to his friends saying,
“Take, eat, this is my body which is given to you;
do this in remembrance of me.”
In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks.
He gave the cup to his friends, saying,
Drink this, all of you;
This is the blood of the New Covenant
which is shed for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.
Remembering all your mighty acts,
we take this bread and this wine
from the gifts you have given us,
and celebrate with joy
the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.
Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
as a living and holy offering of ourselves
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen:

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

VU 939

One: Generous God, pour out your Holy Spirit
upon those who gather around your Table,

and upon the gifts of the Bread and Cup.
As they are the body of your Servant
and the Spirit of your compassion,
may we become the healing and hope
the world longs for in our time.

All (singing): *Amen, amen, amen.*

VU 939

The Peace

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **and also with you.** (all are invited to share the Peace)

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 saying:

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.

One: The bread of life shared with you.

The cup of the New Covenant shared with you.

Come, for the meal is ready!

(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.) Solo during Communion: "If Music be the Food of Love" -- H. Purcell

The Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

One: You have brought us to the banqueting house,
and we have tasted sweet fruit of the vine.
We have sat down under the Beloved's shadow,
His banner over us is love.
Keep us faithful therefore
until that time when we shall feast with all the saints
in Paradise.

**All: Through Christ,
all glory and honour are yours, Holy God,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
now and forever. Amen.**

★ CLOSING HYMN – *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

VU 165

COMMISSIONING

One: Arise, and let us go forth as God's people.

All: Look! God sends us forth with songs of love on our lips.

One: Arise, and let us go forth to serve beside Jesus.

**All: Look! He stands, waiting for us to help tear down the
barriers of injustice.**

One: Arise, and let us go forth to join the generous Spirit.

All: Look! We will be doers as well as givers with our gifts.

BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE – VU 974

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, Amen!

POSTLUDE

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

The gospel reading for the fifth Sunday of the Easter season is John 14: 1-14 -- one of the most beloved and inspiring passages in scripture, but also one of the most troubling. We often hear the first four verses four verses where Jesus speaks of the many dwelling places in God's "house" read out at funerals as a comfort to those who grieve. The late great Henri Nouwen, however, cited these verses as a kind of spiritual manifesto. Jesus expected his disciples to do everything that he had done because they are one with him and with God. Sadly, these verses are often also use to justify a narrow-minded exclusiveness that is impossible to reconcile with the gospel of love that Jesus taught and lived. The centre of the passage seems to be "whoever has seen me has seen the Father" which suggests that knowing Jesus is as close as the human mind can get to comprehending what God is like. The delight (and the problem) is that there are as many ways of understanding Jesus as there are people in the world. One route to understanding the heart of God might, therefore, be healthy faith conversation -- in Greek *Theos* (God) + *logia* (words, utterances) = our English word, theology.

◆ 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.



◆ **Thank You...** ◆

...to our May coffee hosts--

Denise and Phil Farrauto

◆ **Congregational Meeting** ◆

There is a congregational meeting TODAY directly after worship for an update from the Transition Team

There is also a congregational meeting on **MAY 7** following worship for an update on the United Church Remits.

◆ **Child and Youth Notes** ◆

Please note there is **no Thursday night programming on April 27**. Regular programming will resume on May 4.

Michelle is away until April 28 inclusive. Sunday School will continue as scheduled.

Please check out the job posting for the Child and Youth Position on our website: www.melroseunited.ca

◆ **Melrose Passover Seder** ◆

The Melrose Passover Seder will be taking place on **May 10**.

A signup sheet is available in the office to indicate how many will be attending and what you plan on to bring. **Signing up is important** (but we will still feed you if you forget...). This year's event will again be ably led by Janet Kronick.

◆ **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** ◆

Pam is on vacation until May 15th. During the next two weeks Michelle will be in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during regular business hours.

◆ **May in the Corner Shoppe** ◆

"*Everything's Coming Up Roses*" in May for Mother's Day 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

◆ **Melrose Church Picnic**◆

The Melrose Church Picnic will be taking place on **June 11 @ Dundas Driving Park in Pavillion 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 lawnchair, splash pad swimming supplies, your own beverages and a potluck dish to share. Rain or Shine.

◆ **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.

◆ **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





bach elgar choir

CHORAL SCHOLARSHIP RECITAL

Tuesday, May 9th 2017 8:00pm

MacNeill Baptist Church

1145 King Street West,

Hamilton, ON

L8S 1L9

Pay what you can
in support of the
scholarship fund

Scholarship Sponsor:

**HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**



Featuring:

Allana Stevenson,
soprano

Alexander Cann, piano

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – May 8

Carpet Bowling	8:00 a.m.	Gym
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Brownies, Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
Big Book	7:45 p.m.	Parlour, Auditorium

Tuesday - May 9

Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
Tai Chi	7:30 a.m.	Parlour

Wednesday - May 10

Duet Club of Hamilton	9:00 a.m.	Parlour, Sanctuary
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Melrose Seder Dinner	6:00 p.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen

Thursday – May 11

Early Years	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Martial Arts	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
English Country Dancing	6:45 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

Friday – May 12

--	--	--

Saturday - May 13

OnCourse Education	10:00 a.m.	OnCOURSE Rental Area
Acoustic Blend Cafe	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen

Sunday – May 14

Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30a.m.	Sanctuary
Melrose Choir Event	12:00 p.m.	Sanctuary