

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner
Music Director:	Alexander Cann
Custodian:	Darcy Feaver
Office Administrator:	Michelle Millson

◆ 15, October, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Pet Blessing Service

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, October 15, 2017 ◆

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PET BLESSING SERVICE

* 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 –Minuet (from *Berenice*)

G.F. Handel

INTROIT – *Harvest Festival*

Healey Willan

*O Lord, how manifold are thy works: in wisdom hast Thou made them all,
the earth is full of thy riches*

* OPENING HYMN – *All Creatures of Our God and King*

VU 217

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The Christ candle is lit.

We are blessed to be in the presence of Christ's Spirit.

**All: For the light of Christ within us and around us,
we give God thanks!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Creator God, we gather with all your creatures
in this circle of life.

All: We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.

One: Creator God, as we join in celebration with you and all
creation,

**All: We ask for your blessing, your *shalom*,
on the creatures present here that we love,
and all creatures celebrating in the wild.**

One: In the name of God, who creates all life,

in the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life,
and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life,
we say with all in the circle of life:

All: Shalom! Shalom! Shalom! May your blessing come!

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

**God, our Creator, help us to love
all creatures as kin, all animals as partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise, all the smallest of beings as
expressions of your mysterious design
and all frogs as voices of hope. Amen.**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

◆ BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS ◆

* HYMN - *God of the Sparrow*

VU 229

TWO SCRIPTURE READINGS

Revelation 5: 11-14 (Animals around the throne)

Gospel: Matthew 6: 25-29 (God has made creation beautiful)

A READING FROM A SERMON OF ST. FRANCIS

"Peace, birds, peace!"

A MOMENT OF SILENCE - to remember and honour beloved pets no longer with us.

THE BLESSING - All worshippers with animals may now come forward to receive a blessing: "N ... the power of this blessing from Christ fill you, bind you to your human partners that together you might experience comfort and joy. Amen."

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

SOLO – *The Beatitudes*

A.H. Malotte
soloist: Allana Stevenson, soprano

Reader: Alan Bentley

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 22: 1-14

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 62

VU 780

SERMON – “What Not to Wear”

ANTHEM – *The King of Love*

K. Lee Scott, arr.

*The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.*

*Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*

*Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.*

*In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.*

(2)

*Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!*

*And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.*

(4)

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

★ OFFERING HYMN – *Sing to the Lord of the Harvest*

VU 519 Verse 3

*Bring to this sacred altar
all things God's goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
the souls Christ died to save:
your hearts lay down before him
when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
who gave his life for all.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**God of compassion and generous love,
we give you thanks for the riches of Earth,
which sustain our lives and the lives of all creatures.
Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need
and the work of your church.
In peace, we pray our thanksgiving. Amen.**

CANTICLE OF THE SUN (Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)

One: Most high, all powerful, all good Lord!
All praise is yours, all glory, all honour, and all blessing.
And, it is to you alone, Most High, that we pray.
You are praised, O God by our Brother, Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
May light be shed on your Church,
that your faithful people may bear your likeness.

All: O God, hear us.

One: You are praised, O God, through our Sister, Moon, and the stars; in the heavens you have made them bright, precious

and beautiful. May the nations of the earth, whom they look down upon each night be blessed with your peace.

All: O God, hear us.

One: You are praised, O God, through our Brothers, Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the weather. May you rain down your grace upon our nation, and it's leaders and people.

All: O God, hear us.

One: You are praised, O God, through our Sister, Water; quench the thirst of the poor, the downtrodden, and those who are ill, or in trouble of any kind. Today we remember those in our own community most in need of your care (silence for private prayer).

All: O God, hear us.

One: You are praised, O God, through our Brother, Fire, through whom you brighten the night; we pray you to brighten your realm, where the souls of the faithful departed rest. For them, as you, may there be no night.

All: O God, hear us.

One: You are praised, O God, through our sister, and Mother, Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs; give us the will to care for her, as you created her.

All: O God, hear us.

One: Be praised, my God, through those who forgive for love of you; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy those who endure in peace, for by you, Most High, they will be crowned.

All: O God, hear us.

One: O God, we praise and bless you, and we give you thanks, and with all of creation, we serve you and pray to you with great humility the prayer of our brother Jesus, who taught us to say together:

(concluding with the Prayer of Jesus, VU 921)

* COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

* CHORAL RESPONSE

VU 423 Vs. 1

*God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.*

POSTLUDE --*Toccata in C Major*

J. Pachelbel

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Next Sunday we will rejoin the ecumenical lectionary in the midst of an arc of stories about the Israelites' forty years of wandering following the Exodus from Egypt. God had promised to dwell in the midst of the Israelites; and the tabernacle was to be a visible sign of that abiding presence. By the time we get to the lesson at Exodus 33: 12-23, however, the people have stumbled badly. By worshipping the golden calf, they have betrayed their relationship with God. God is angered and it requires some fancy diplomatic footwork on the part of Moses to right the situation. Moses is persuasive (it is no small feat to persuade the Creator of the universe to a change of mind). Moses then pushes his luck a bit further and asks of God: "Show me your glory." Because the full extent of God's glory might consume him, Moses is only permitted to glimpse a flash of God's backside. Two important themes emerge in this narrative. The first is that God chooses to be in relationship with human beings and becomes vulnerable to the pain that ensues when a relationship is betrayed. The second is that assurance that authentic divine-human communication is possible. Moses holds God accountable to God's promise to accompany the Israelites on their wilderness journey and beyond. God is, however, still God and even Moses, despite his *chutzpah*, cannot see the full extent of God's glory (or, to put it another way, comprehend God completely). Nevertheless, God's promise is enough.

◆ Thank You... ◆

...to our October coffee hosts – Shari Saunders, Linda Saunders
& Kathy Ross.



◆ **Exciting Staffing Announcement** ◆

Family Ministries Coordinator

We are pleased & excited for you to meet our new FM Coordinator - Meg Chalmers. Meg will work with the children and families during church as well as other activities at special times.

Please say hello to Meg during Coffee after the church service.

◆ **Congregational Meeting** ◆

A congregational Meeting will be held immediately following service on **TODAY** to consider and vote on the following Motion:

That the congregation approve the withdrawal of up to \$35,000 from the capital of the Sustaining Fund in order to meet the needs of the operating budget for the remainder of 2017.

One of Melrose's tenants, OnCourse tutoring, departed this past spring. The space has since been leased to Little Learning House daycare for five years, but the gap between the two tenants has resulted in lost income of \$8,000. As well, the Live On Locke concert series did not proceed this year, and it has brought in \$4,000 in previous years. Significant renovations were necessary to prepare rooms for the daycare expansion, and Melrose has spent \$25,000 on these renovations. The combination of reduced rental income and renovation expenses has led to this Motion.

◆ **Please note...** ◆

There will "not" be a Prayer Shawl group on Saturday Oct 28th. Our next date will be Saturday November 25th

◆ **Let's Celebrate!** ◆

TODAY after coffee hour join us to celebrate James Young and Patricia Nip's baby on the way. The shower will start at 1:30pm in the parlour.

◆ **Hurricane Irma Relief** ◆

Social Justice Committee is asking the family of Melrose to consider making contributions to UCC emergency relief fund to support survivors of Hurricane Irma and the Mexico Earthquake.

"This fall, a series of hurricanes has struck several countries and territories in the Caribbean. And two major earthquakes have shaken Mexico. The United Church of Canada is supporting efforts of global partners to assist people affected by these events. Our membership in the global ACT Alliance provides more ways to help those affected communities. ACT members, organized in various regional and national forums (including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Cuba), work quickly to assist with evacuations and emergency shelter where necessary, and to help communities rebuild. The United Church is already contributing to those efforts. "

There are envelopes in the pews and on the tables at the narthex and at the sanctuary. Please consider assisting the United Church of Canada in their Mission to rebuild communities.

On October 22 the Social Justice Committee will host Coffee Hour as an additional and final event in supporting rebuilding efforts in affected Caribbean Islands. Please consider the appeal and make a heartfelt contribution.

◆ **Bazaar Jewelry** ◆

The Melrose Mistletoe Bazaar is fast approaching and we are in need of jewelry and jewelry boxes. If you have any to donate please let Suzanne Kovacs know.

◆ **Melrose Corner Shoppe Now Open** ◆

The Melrose Corner Shoppe is open again for the fall! Plan to check it out and find some used and new treasures! All proceeds go to stained glass window repairs.

◆ **Exciting News!** ◆

The office received this from Aric Rankin: Michelle and I and especially Mackenna and Connor would like to welcome Morgan May Rankin, 7lbs3oz, born 10:01, October 10th, 2017 @ McMaster Children's! Mom and babe are doing great!! We are all so excited! Please feel free to share with our Melrose family!

◆ **TGIF – Halloween Edition – October 27** ◆

Join us for a fun, family friendly evening. All welcome! Location: Parlour and Auditorium Time: 6pm-8pm Bring: Potluck Supper item to share and pumpkin to carve. Dress in your Halloween best!! Drinks and games provided.

◆ **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.



◆ **Hamilton Presbytery Update** ◆

A few notes from Presbytery that might be of interest to Melrose folk from the meeting on Tuesday, October 3:

1. **Meaningful, personal worship** was shared at the tables including courageous faith stories. This meeting included the people of New Vision (formerly Centenary and St. Giles) sharing their work and story.
2. St. Giles pews will be on the street to be painted during the next Art Crawl.
3. **IMPORTANT** - concerning the St Giles site at Holton St. -to be kept, for heritage reasons, as the building stands currently, not sold, but developed into 41 apartments. Presbytery voted in favour of the planned development after presentations from EDGE and the developer.
4. **Resource Centre:** moved to Emmanuel United Church, 871 Upper Ottawa St. Hamilton, L8T3V4. Open Tues, Wed, Thurs. 10-2. It is a beautiful bright new location and well worth a visit. The resource centre will bring a display to churches and special events to share / sell books and other interesting items! Canadian Church calendars are in!

5. **Pastoral Relations** reported on some church vacancies and ministerial staff changes.
6. **Hamilton Conference representative**, Diane Blanchard, reported on the passing of 4 remits and mentioned the work to be done on the final Remit, concerning order of Ministry, in preparation for General Council, July 21-28, 2018. (For more info. see on line - the United Church web site, ' Implementation Reports. ')Remits will not be enacted, after approval at General Council, until Jan. 2019.
7. **Wesley Urban Ministries'**, Andrea Butters, reported that an outreach person is needed to attend 2 mtgs a year, concerning all updates and connections with Wesley. The next meeting is Sat. Oct. 28 - 9:30-11. The Christmas store will be held at Pioneer United with congregation drop off dates Dec. 3, 10, 17. More info to follow! Much gratitude for all support and interest given to Wesley!
8. **Upcoming Events:**
Oct. 15 - 7:30Come to Trinity United Church & enjoy Linnea Good, United Church singer, songwriter and story teller (poster in hallway).
Tues. Nov. 7 - 12-1:30 come to Wesley's Marketplace at David Braley Health Science Centre downtown to learn about all of Wesley's community supports in Hamilton, Halton and Brant! (poster in hallway)!

Submitted by Dianne Coons, Melrose Presbytery rep.)

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – October 16

Property Committee Meeting		
Carpet Bowling	10:30 a.m.	Parlour
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Brownies, Guides	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room, Gym
Big Book		Parlour
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
	7:45 p.m.	

Tuesday - October 17

Melrose Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
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 - October 18

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

Thursday - October 19

Early Years Workshop	9:15 a.m.	Parlour
Early Years Workshop	10:30 a.m.	Parlour
WrapAround Hamilton Annual Event	10:30 a.m.	Auditorium
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
RSCDS Dancing	1:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Martial Arts Class	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
English Country Dancing	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Friday – October 20

Saturday - October 21

Mindfulness Hamilton Annual Member Retreat	9:00 a.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
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Sunday – October 22

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