

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Kevin Geluch

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ Sunday, February 24, 2019 ◆

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Featured Window - "The Suffering Servant"

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019 ◆
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEATURED WINDOW: "THE SUFFERING SERVANT"

* indicates a time to stand, if you are able
congregational responses are in **boldface type**

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT - Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

W. Willan

* OPENING HYMN - *There in God's Garden*

VU 346

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ has come to us.

All: Let us celebrate God's abiding love!

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's people have gathered for worship

All: and God is with us.

One: Strangers and friends,
familiar and new,
yet one in God's love,

All: and God is with us.

One: Feeling lost and hopeless,
feeling found and thankful,

All: and God is with us.

One: No matter where we've come from
or where we're bound

**All: God is with us,
We come in gratitude and hope.
Let us worship God!**

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)
**Inexhaustible source of love and life,
be with us in our time of worship
as we seek the love it takes to walk
in the ways of your Son.
Help us love our enemies
and bless those who wrong us, for we cannot do so alone.
Teach us the joy of treating others
with all the same respect and goodness
with which we hope to be treated.
May our every word and deed
make known that we are your beloved children
and vessels of your love. Amen.
fill us with your loving Word.
Take us as we are, and make us wholly yours.
Amen.**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN – *Jesus, Friend of Little Children* VU 340

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Catherine Clase

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 37 VU 763

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: Luke 6: 27-38

One: This is Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ**

* HYMN – *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

VU 364

SERMON: “Easier Said than Done”

ANTHEM –Come Down, O Love Divine

W.H. Harris

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

* OFFERING HYMN – *Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness*

HB 33 Verse 4

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before God, God's glory proclaim
Gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
These are the offerings we lay at God's shrine.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said by all)

**Many hands worked to offer these gifts,
and many hands are offered for your work.**

Let our hands be Christ's hands:

inviting, sharing, teaching, and comforting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

(followed by a paraphrase of the Prayer of Jesus, VU 916)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

★ CLOSING HYMN – *O God of Every Nation*

VU 677

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE – *May God's Sheltering Wings* MV 214
*May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.*

POSTLUDE

Melrose Vision ♦

To respond to God's call by being a people of faith who open our hearts and minds to the true power and love of Jesus Christ. To live our faith by providing within our changing community a welcoming environment which encourages all people to care for and accept one another.

♦ Newcomers and Visitors ♦

Welcome to Melrose United Church!

Please feel free to fill in the form in the Welcome Binder located by the Name Tag boxes which are located on the tables by the east doors on each side of the chancel steps.

♦ Worship Next Week ♦

The season of Epiphany draws to a close next Sunday which marks the Feast of the Transfiguration. Wednesday, March 6th is Ash Wednesday, the opening of the six-week Lenten Season. In addition to the Gospel of Luke's account of the Transfiguration event (Luke 9: 28-36) where we encounter the eternal light of God shining through the face of Jesus the lectionary choices for Transfiguration Sunday include the remarkable story of Moses' who descends from Mount Sinai after an encounter with God sporting a uniquely shining face that caused Aaron and all Israel to fear coming near him. In order to impart the wisdom that he needed to communicate, Moses resorted to the use of a veil. The sermon will explore some of the possible meanings of that veil while affirming that God's light, even reflecting off the face of a human being, is always a beacon of hope for our world that can never be extinguished.

♦ Celebrating our stained glass windows in Worship ♦

2019 marks the 90th anniversary of the completion of our beautiful sanctuary designed by renowned Scottish architect John Gibb Morton, who used the ruin of Melrose Abbey as his creative inspiration - hence our church name. In honour of the anniversary,

and in anticipation of our forthcoming celebration weekend in late March, elements of worship on each of the forthcoming Sundays will feature themes from one of the glorious stained glass windows that adorn the sanctuary walls.

◆ **2018 Tax Receipts are now available** ◆

Help the office save on mailing costs and pick yours up today!

◆ **Let's Celebrate!** ◆

Help us celebrate our personal milestones as we prepare to celebrate the 90th of our Church building. Over the next few weeks, please sign the birthday calendar during coffee hour, on your birthdate. We are not asking for the year, just the date. Thank you.

◆ **Melrose Office Closed from February 16-February 24** ◆

From February 16 to February 24 the Melrose office will be closed. The custodial staff will be in the building as normal and able to assist with property related issues. Messages left on the office voicemail and sent to the office email will not be checked or responded to. During this time please contact contact Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner for pastoral care issues and Kevin Geluch for building related issues.

◆ **Everyday Skeptics - Lenten Study** ◆

Announcement from Hamilton Presbytery Resource Centre: With Lent on the horizon, now's the time to get set for your personal or church Lenten Devotions and Study. "Everyday Skeptics: devotions for spiritual growth" is from the United Church Publishing House, 2018. How do the prophets influence our spiritual formation and our actions as church today – wrestle with such questions through daily scripture, reflections and prayers.

Please call or email to order "Everyday Skeptics: devotions for spiritual growth" for \$14.95 hampresresource@gmail.com 905-318-5289.

◆ Corner Shoppe Update ◆

As spring slowly approaches and you are thinking about spring cleaning, please remember the Corner Shoppe for your donations of household items, art, books and more. We look forward to passing them on to others for their enjoyment and use. Donations can be left inside the auditorium behind the door marked for that. Thank you for your ongoing help and support.

◆ Thank you... ◆

Thank you to coffee hosts this month *Cheryl Evans and Patti Varey*

◆ Greening our Sacred Space ◆

Each month we receive an update on the number of trees our solar panels have "saved" through our carbon offset.

In January 2019 we offset 5 trees!

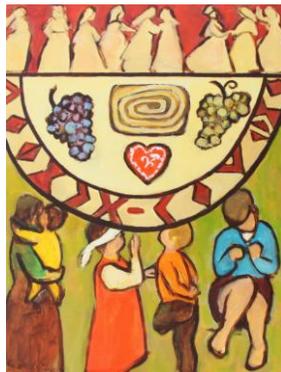


◆ Upcoming World Day of Prayer Service ◆

Friday evening, March 1st 7:00pm, Melrose will be hosting World Day of Prayer, a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women joined together to observe a common day of prayer.

This year, the writing country is Slovenia:

"Come - Everything is Ready".



MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – February 25

MONTHLY FIRE DRILL	10:00 a.m.	Entire Building
Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
Quilting	12:30 p.m.	Parlour
LeapYear Education	5:30 p.m.	Parlour
Brownies and Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Norman Slater Room
Melrose Official Board	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Tuesday - February 26

Martial Arts Class	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Ancaster U12 Soccer	6:30 p.m.	Gym
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium, Sanctuary
Locke Street BIA	7:00 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Pick up Basketball	7:45 p.m.	Gym

Wednesday - February 27

Duet Club	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Siva Yoga	10:30 a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
West Hamilton U12 Soccer	7:00 p.m.	Gym
Resource Management Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Thursday - February 28

Parent Child Mother Goose Class	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Melrose Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Chapel
Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
RSDCS Dancing Class	1:30 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 – March 1

World Day of Prayer Service	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
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Saturday - March 2

Acoustic Blend Café	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen
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Sunday – March 3

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