

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

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◆ www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch ◆

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Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner
Music Director:	Alexander Cann
Family Ministries Coordinator:	Meg Chalmers
Office Administrator:	Michelle Millson

◆ **April 1, 2018 - 10:30 a.m.** ◆
Easter Sunrise Service

◆ **MELROSE UNITED CHURCH** ◆
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, 1st APRIL, 2018

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE – Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Her, Op. 142 F. Schubert

* GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: There was darkness over the earth before creation;

All: There is darkness in the womb before birth;

One: The seed grows in darkness before it meets the light;

All: There is darkness in the tomb before resurrection.

One: But now Christ is risen!

All: The dawn has come

One: A new creation has commenced

All: The world is born anew.

One: Christ is Risen.

All: HE IS RISEN INDEED!

One: Thanks be to God!

All: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

* LIGHTING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

One: Behold the light of the world!

All: The light no darkness can overcome!

* OPENING HYMN – *Morning Has Broken*

VU 409

PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: God of uprisings, God of the rising sun, the rising tide, the rising wind, the rising mist, the rising crocuses; you have raised Jesus Christ from the dead, raising our hopes to the skies, opening up glorious new possibilities for our living, for our dying, for our living again. Raise us to new life here and now, that we may walk in faith and love every day; in Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy God, like the first witnesses of the Resurrection, we too come to the empty tomb with a variety of responses. We hear the good news that Jesus has risen, but so often the evidence of this is difficult to detect in our lives.

All: Forgive us when we fail to make the risen Christ evident through our words and actions.

One: As we come to the empty tomb seeking forgiveness for all our

faults and shortcomings, help us to re-order our priorities so that we put the risen Christ first in our lives at all times.

All: Forgive us when we forget that the tomb is forever empty because Jesus is here and is wherever Christians live and worship.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Jesus willingly died for us! God so loved the world that God gave God's only son Jesus to the world not to be its judge, but to be its saviour.

We are a loved and a forgiven people.

All: Thanks be to God! We are an Easter people! Alleluia!

* HYMN – *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks*

VU 179

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 118 (Parts I, II, III)

VU 837

THE GOSPEL: John 20: 1-18

One: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SUNG RESPONSE

VU 958

**All: Halle, halle, hallelujah! (3x)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!**

HOMILY – “Mary Magdalene: An Easter Monologue”

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

OFFERING

★ OFFERING HYMN – *Who is There on This Easter Morning* VU 176

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

Majestic God, today we celebrate the miracle of our risen Lord.

Like the women at the tomb, we are surprised by joy.

**We are reminded that our faith is connected intimately
to your amazing, unwavering love.**

**Multiply these gifts so that your realm of shalom will become a
reality in our world. Amen.**

EASTER DIALOGUE

One: Christ is risen!

**All: We walked the valleys and saw the people crying in
need. Jesus reached out to them. He did not criticize
or diminish their needs. He touched their lives and
they were never the same. The love that flowed
through him to them was God’s healing love.**

One: Christ is risen!

All: We sat at table in the Upper Room as Jesus told of his

death and we wanted to discount his words.
How could he die? We did not want to believe it.
It was easier to proclaim with bravado our faith
than to listen to his words.

One: Christ is risen!

All: We waited in the Garden of Sorrows while he prayed
and watched in horror as he was betrayed with a kiss.
We followed at a distance and denied, with Peter, ever
knowing who he was. We were in the crowd that
clamoured for Barabbas' release and turned our backs
as Pilate washed his hands of the crime.

One: Christ is risen!

All: We followed him to the hill and cringed as they nailed
him to the Cross. We heard his words of forgiveness
and love from the cross and felt the ground tremble
as the sky darkened and he gave up his life, into God's
hands.

One: Christ is risen!

All: We ran from the empty tomb today, with the incredible
news that He is Risen! He was not captured by death,
but is risen from the dead, just as he said he would be.
We come with the joy in our hearts to this day.
As the flowers in our worship area burst with colour, so
we burst with the absolute joyous news
CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!
HALLELUJAH! AMEN.

★ THE PEACE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

One: The peace of the risen Christ be with you

All: **And also with you.** (*All share a word of peace*)

★ HYMN – *Jesus Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

VU 155

★ BLESSING

Easter Flowers in Loving Memory of:



- ✧ Ruth McQueen
- ✧ Betty and Blake MacFarlane
- ✧ Wm. Blakely MacFarlane & Audrina MacFarlane
- ✧ Janet Fawcett, Ernest Fawcett, Dr. Paul Fawcett, Mary Briggs, Louisa and Freeman Furry, Antonio and Benina Miscione, Laura Miscione
- ✧ Robert Grant, Eleanor Westwood, Ruth McQueen
- ✧ Parents of David and Carolyn Duff
- ✧ William & Kathleen MacFarlane, Harold & Gladys Saunders
- ✧ Elsie Ahearn, Woodie Anderson, Doreen Blain, Harry & Clara Boothe, Wes & ✧ Carmela Evans, Jim, Edna and Joan Evans, Sharon Easton, Jim & Brian Hand, Frieda Harrett, Murray Korytko, Stevie Korytko, Violet MacInnis
- ✧ Harold, Anne & Connie MacInnis, Goldie MacInnis, Mary Martin, Caroline Meronyk, Olita Vattay
- ✧ Alex and Mary Ann McRae, parents of Lucy-Jane Hannaford
- ✧ Norman and Edna Hannaford, parents of Roy and Allan Hannaford
- ✧ Anne Gilmore's grandmothers--Margaret Kaine, Hilda Little
- ✧ Grandparents of Matthew and Elora Winner
- ✧ George & Helen Laidman
- ✧ Bruce & Ida (Toffelmeyer) Carr, parents of Kathy North Ross
- ✧ Elsie (North) Johns, precious mother-in-law of Kathy North Ross
- ✧ Elizabeth Sharp (mother of Gwyn Xagoraris, mother-in-law of Mathew and grandmother of Eleanor and Alethea), Nicole Salfko, Tina Whitte
- ✧ Roy Hannaford, Helen and Rod Cassels
- ✧ Brian Morison, Bill and Jean Foster
- ✧ Kenneth, Lillian and David Gardner
- ✧ In loving memory of Henry, Florence, Arthur, and Rosemary Harker (donation made on behalf of Evelyn Brown, Shirley Bates, and Irene Horsley)
- ✧ Verner & Edna McNeely by their daughter Ruth
- ✧ Thomas and Kathleen Ferrie
- ✧ Barb Farnhana and Jack Cullen

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

On the first Sunday following Easter we will examine an interesting passage in the Book of Acts (4: 32-35). This narrative describes how the early community of Christ-followers arises in response to the experience of Pentecost and thereafter devotes itself to worship, instruction, fellowship, and sharing. Luke's depiction of communal unity and radical sharing would certainly have appealed to prevalent virtues in antiquity -- whether these are the principles of historic Israel, Greek ideals of friendship or the Mediterranean practices of hospitality. In addition, many early Christian writings express strong convictions about the importance of sharing material goods, especially on the part of wealthy believers with those in need. These portrayals of a Christ-following community often raise red flags for many first world readers of Scripture. Some even liken what they find in the fourth chapter of Acts to a kind of "Christian communism." They label the notion of such extensive sharing not only unrealistic, but also dangerous. Nevertheless, the passage does call for the church to walk the walk and not just to talk the talk. We are meant both to preach Jesus' message and also to *live* it as well as to seek to embody it in our lives together as a faith community.

◆ Thank you ◆

...to our coffee hosts this week -

Shari Saunders, Linda Saunders and Kathy Ross.

◆ Social Justice thanks you... ◆

Social justice committee and Jeni Hemu thank everyone at Melrose who contributed to our social justice Sunday for essential aid and family services. We filled Jeni's van! Check out the picture on our Facebook page! On top of the donations, \$70. In cash (from coffee hour)was provided so that infant formula can be purchased! Melrose is a wonderful giving place! Thanks!

◆ **The corner Shoppe is Gathering New Talent** ◆

Beginning June 1, 2018 Jeff Ogino will be managing The Melrose Corner Shoppe!

Helpers are needed to select, clean and price stock; sort and organize books; stock, dust and tidy shelves. Flexible hours and the opportunity to contribute creative ideas and talents to this successful fund-raiser make this an ideal volunteer position!

As well as generating revenue for church causes, The Corner Shoppe provides a fun venue for the congregation and the community to interact in a way that helps “green” our neighbourhood.

Remember “Many hands make light work” and please contact the church office if you would like to be part of this “New Team”!

Phone: 905-525-1323 E-mail: melrose@melroseunited.ca

◆ **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.

◆ **Acoustic Blend Cafe** ◆

The big moment at our **Hamilton** location is here on **Saturday, April 14**. It’s the “**Tomorrow’s Headliners**” concert! Top students from the Greater Hamilton Area and Halton Region will perform. We held auditions last November and through tough decision making came up with the six students to present this year’s concert. Come and support these hard working young musicians and you can say you’ve seen **Tomorrow’s Headliners**! We offer advance tickets at a discount for both locations and can be purchased by visiting <http://www.eventbrite.ca>. Prices are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door, which also includes complimentary coffee and tea.

WIT - Women In Touch potluck dinner

Wednesday April 11 at 6:30 pm
in the Melrose church parlour

Our guest this evening is

Elaine from
"GLEANERS"

(More information posted in the auditorium)

Come & share a meal with friends!!



MELROSE
COMMUNITY
PASSOVER SEDER

Pot Luck Supper
Thursday April 12th, 2018
6-9pm (times are approximate)

Please Bring: a main dish, salad or dessert
1 or 2 candles, wine if you'd like
Dinner begins after the Seder service
Pre-registration is preferred
Melrose Office: 905-524-1323

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – April 2

Building Closed

Tuesday - April 3

Yoga Class	7:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Wednesday - April 4

HPL: Locke Street Storytime	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Duet Club Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
Siva Yoga	10:30 a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Melrose Official Board	7:30 p.m.	Parlour

Thursday - April 5

Early Years Workshop	9:15 a.m.	Parlour
Melrose Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Chapel
Early Years Workshop	10:30 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
RSCDS Dancing	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
West Hamilton U12 Soccer	7:30 p.m.	Gymnasium

Friday – April 6

Fire Suppression Inspection	8:30 a.m.	Kitchen
Bookmobile: HPL	10:00 a.m.	Parking Lot

Saturday - April 7

Tom Schilling Master Class	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
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Sunday – April 8

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