

◆ 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, September 23, 2018 ◆
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Creation III

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 ◆
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CREATION III

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT - Grant, O Lord

J. Booth

* OPENING HYMN - *For Beauty of Prairies*

VU 303

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: Happy are those who follow the ways of the Lord.

All: God's ways are just and merciful.

One: Those who follow God's ways are continually nourished in
faith.

All: In all that they do, they prosper.

One: Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

All: Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

God of love,

you teach us a life journey

that calls us to deny
what is unhealthy and unloving.
Lead us in Your pathway.
Awaken us to the ever-new abundance
that is ours through your Word,
in the name of the one who died and rose,
Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN – *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* VU 357

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

ANTHEM – The Lone Wild Bird arr. G. Thurgood

Reader: Gwyneth Xagoraris

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 1 VU 724

EPISTLE – James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a

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

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL – Mark 9: 30-37

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN – *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* VU 560

SERMON: "Winners and Losers"

ANTHEM - The Voice of God

L. Larson

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

* OFFERTORY HYMN - *Praise to God*

VU 243 Verse 2

*Thanks to God, thanks to God,
for the gift of friends in Christ,
for the church, our house of faith,
for the gift of wondrous love,
for the gift of endless grace.
Thanks to God, thanks to God,
now and for evermore.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**You, God, are generous,
full of mercy
and goodness for your creation.
Send your wisdom with these gifts,
that they may reach those
who need your love and welcome.
Bring about a harvest of goodness
through these gifts sown in peace. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

(concluding with the prayer of Jesus)

**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.

★ CLOSING HYMN – *At the Name of Jesus*

VU 335

CHORAL BLESSING –

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

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.

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Next Sunday's sermon will focus on a book of the Bible with which many may find themselves unfamiliar. The book of Esther is short, and it is well worth reading. Esther, unlike other texts in the Hebrew Scriptures, does not mention of Jerusalem, the law, prophets, the Promised Land or exile, or even God. It includes no formal prayers or miracles, though does depict fasting as a pious practice. Its internal tie to the rest of the Hebrew Bible is that it involves the survival of the Jewish people. Taken as a whole, the book of Esther addresses several key themes through the story of her life as part of a religious minority living within the dominant Persian culture. Throughout a series of intrigues, Esther maintains her proximity to power in order to deliver her people from destruction, which she does. As a Jewish woman at the Persian court in Susa navigating both cultures, she reflects the struggle of the Jewish people living in diaspora. She eventually takes a risky stand in order to deliver and preserve the Jewish people. By the end of the book, more reversals ensue, so that the powerful are brought low, while the servant is raised up. These reversals offer theological reassurance to a religious minority in the period following the exile that God is indeed still at work delivering God's chosen ones. There is good news for Christians as well, since we also must claim our identity within a dominant culture that would have us be Canadians first, or employees first, or consumers first – other identities that compete for the hearts of those who follow Jesus.

◆ Please note ◆

After church today:

M & P meeting 12:15 in the chapel

Transition team meeting 12:30 in the parlour

◆ **Locke Street Update** ◆

AMAZING! The Locke street festival jam sale raised \$2006.50!

Thanks to all the folk who made jam throughout the year, worked in the jamming parties, set up, sold and took down the booth. It takes a great group effort to make an event as successful as this has been.

People who attend the festival specifically come looking for Melrose jams!!! This is amazing, and truly tells about the quality of products made. Fantastic work everyone!

◆ **Wesley Urban Ministries Dinner** ◆

Melrose's hosting date is coming up fast! If you can volunteer on Sunday, September 30 please let Gwyn X. know. **Eight** volunteers are needed to make the dinner a success. Last year we did NOT have enough folk to prepare and serve dinner. Please consider volunteering 3 hours of your time on from 2pm-5pm.

We also need donations of chocolate chip cookies. Please drop these off in the kitchen on Sept 30th.

◆ **Passing of Sylvia Vanderby** ◆

Sylvia's obituary: Peacefully on September 15, 2018 in her 97th year. Beloved wife to the late Ike. Loving mother to Andy (Karen) and Max (Michelle). Cherished grandmother to Paul, David, Katie, Brandon, Taylor and Hunter. She will be dearly missed by her sister-in-law and brother-in-law Pim and Sijmen Wijbenga and by her nieces, nephews. extended family and friends. Sylvia was a long time member of Melrose United Church and was a devoted RN at Chedoke Hospital for many years. A special thank you to the wonderful staff at Shalom Manor in Grimsby for their care and support. Her family will receive friends at the Cresmount Funeral Home, 322 Fennell Ave. E, Hamilton. on Wednesday from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. A private family graveside will take place at White Chapel Memorial Gardens.

◆ **Requested Extension of Interim Ministry** ◆

As you know, the Transition Team formally requested an extension of the Interim Ministry period in order to complete its work. As an update, the Official Board followed up with the congregation and then advised Presbytery of this request. This process is currently in progress at Presbytery and requires final approval, however we anticipate that this request will be granted, and that Rev.

Gardner's Interim Ministry with Melrose will be extended until the end of June, 2019. Once final approval is received, I will ensure that is communicated, but the Board wanted to ensure that the congregation is updated with the most recent information available to us.

Cheryl Evans

Chair, Official Board

◆ **Staffing Update** ◆

We welcome Kevin Geluch as our full time custodian effective September 4 2018. Al Ritcey and Chris Palmer continue to work several custodial shifts a week. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated staff.

M and P Committee

◆ **Financial Update** ◆

We are now two-thirds of the way through the year, and I want to provide an update. Through the first eight months, Melrose expenditures have exceeded revenues by about \$58,000. The Trustees have provided \$43,000 from their income and capital to cover this shortfall. Our budget for the entire year anticipated that a total of \$67,000 will be received from the Trustees in order to cover our deficit, but it appears that our deficit is likely to exceed this amount.

The care of an old building has continued to be costly. The boilers and air conditioning have both needed expensive repairs, while leaky roofs and a collapsed flight of stairs added unexpected costs. I

am happy to report that the costs of washroom renovations were entirely covered by funds raised and donated.

Donations during the eight months have been 55 percent of the budget target for the year. There is usually an increase in donations during the final months of the year, and hopefully we will be able to provide additional financial support over the remainder of the year. Rental and leasing income has been 64 percent of the year's budget target.

As we enter autumn and the Christmas season, please consider whether you are able to provide additional support to Melrose.

Ralph Moulton

UPCOMING DATES :

Prayer Shawl Ministry

9:30am in the parlour

Sept. 29, Oct 27, Nov. 24

Wesley Dinner Hosting

2:00pm @ Wesley

Sept. 30

WIT Potluck

6:30pm in the parlour

Oct 10, Dec. 12

Acoustic Blend Cafe

7:00pm in the auditorium

Oct. 13, Nov. 13

Mistletoe Bazaar

9:30am-2pm

Nov. 17

Thank you to coffee hosts this month *Denise and Phil Farrauto*



MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – September 24

Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
LeapYear Education	5:30 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
Brownies and Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Norman Slater Room

Tuesday - September 25

Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
Locke Street BIA	7:00 p.m.	Chapel
Yoga	7:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room

Wednesday – September 26

Duet Club of Hamilton Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
HPL Storytime	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
WrapAround Hamilton Event	10:00 a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Mindful Communication	5:15 p.m.	Parlour
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Auditorium

Thursday – September 27

Parent Child Mother Goose	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
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 – September 28

Private Event	8:30 a.m.	Parlour
Bookmobile: HPL	10:00 a.m.	Parking Lot

Saturday – September 29

Prayer Shawl Ministry	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
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Sunday – September 30

Melrose Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30a.m.	Sanctuary
Melrose Hosting Wesley Dinner	2:00 p.m.	Wesley Urban Min.
Duet Club of Hamilton Concert	2:30 p.m.	Sanctuary