

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ **May 13, 2018 - 10:30 a.m.** ◆

Ascension Sunday

Christian Family Sunday

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ May 13th, 2018 ◆

ASCENSION SUNDAY

CHRISTIAN FAMILY 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

INTROIT - O, How Glorious

H Willan

* OPENING HYMN – *The Head That Once Was Crowned*

VU 190

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ is in the world.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ is alive. He is risen from the dead.

All: The Holy One calls us to worship and praise.

One: Baptized with the power of the Holy Spirit,

All: we live with Christ in our hearts.

One: Clap your hands and shout to God

with loud songs of joy.

**All: Sing praises to God, who fills the world
with forgiveness and grace.**

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

Blessed are you, Holy One,

creator of all that is and all that ever will be.
You sent your holy child, Jesus,
to heal us and bless us,
to show us your love.
After his suffering and death on the cross,
he was still among us,
proclaiming repentance and forgiveness of sins.
Just as you sent the power of the Holy Spirit
to those who first believed,
fill us now with your power and grace,
that we may become the hands and feet,
and heart and spirit, of Christ. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN – *Here at This Font*

VU 450

SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM

*We welcome to the church family of Christ: Ella Shirley Pleizier,
daughter of Jonathon Pleizier and Jenna Dowkaniuk*

Statement of Purpose

The sacrament of baptism
proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.
By water and the Spirit,
we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
we are called God's own,
welcomed as children of God;
we are claimed by Christ,
united with Christ,
united with one another and the Christian community
of every time and place;
we are commissioned to Christ's ministry
of love, peace, and justice,
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit

for the work of the church in the world.

A Reading from Scripture

Matthew 3: 13-17 (Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River)

Presentation (Margaret Duff, Worship Committee Chair)

On behalf of the congregation of Melrose United Church,
I present Ella Shirley Pleizier, daughter of
Jonathon Pleizier and Jenna Dowhaniuk for initiation
into the body of Christ through baptism.

Profession of Faith and Promises

Do you believe in God, Source of love;
in Jesus Christ, love incarnate;
and in the Holy Spirit, love's power.

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ,
do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

I do, God being my helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join
with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith
to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation,
and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Parents

In baptism, Ella marks an important step
in her journey of faith.

Will you pray for her and encourage her by your words and
actions, and walk with her in the way of Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of the Community of Faith

**The congregation may stand, as they are able*

As the people of Melrose United Church,
do you commit yourselves to offer support and nurture
for these persons within a community that worships God,
loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, by the grace of God.

Affirmation of Faith

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God.

(the congregation is seated)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

Let us pray:

Gracious and Holy God,
we bless you for the gift of life,
and within it, the gift of water.

Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation.

By water, comes the growth of the earth.

Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.

In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do,
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

~The water is poured into the font~

May God's Spirit be upon us
and these waters of daily use,
which we now use
to baptize and to welcome.

The Act of Baptism

Ella Shirley,
I baptize you,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
One God, mother of us all. **Amen.**

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Ella Shirley, child of God, from this day forward,
you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit,
Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within
you, all the days of your life. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle (the baptismal candle is lit)

Ella Shirley, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

All: Amen!

Presentation of Books, Prayer Shawls, Certificates

One: Ella, we present you with a book,
prayer shawl, and Certificate of Baptism. May the stories
of our faith support and encourage you as you grow in
your relationship with God. And may your prayer shawl
remind you that you are wrapped in God's love and care
all of your life.

The Hebrew Benediction (sung, VU 965)

Presentation of Ella to the Melrose Congregation

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Patricia Nip

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 47

VU 771 (Refrain 1)

THE SCRIPTURE: Acts 1: 1-11

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: John 17: 6-19

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Chris.

All: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN – *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

VU 364

SERMON: “Did Jesus Leave a Will?”

ANTHEM – Ain’ a-that Good News!

A. Dawson, arr.

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN – *Wellspring of Wisdom*

VU 287 verse 3

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**God, we offer to you only a portion
of what you have given us.**

All that we have is from your creative hand.

All that we can give away we do through Jesus’ love.

All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit’s wisdom.

Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may have joy.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

* CLOSING HYMN – *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

VU 320

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE – *Five Fold Amen*

Cann

◆ 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 will be the Feast of Pentecost, the day when as a church we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost (which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection) there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." Therefore, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church began. The English

word "Pentecost" is a transliteration of the Greek *pentekostos*, which means "fifty." Christians didn't invent the phrase, they borrowed it from Greek-speaking Jews who used it to refer to *Shavuot*, the Festival of Weeks (fifty days from the end of Passover), a spring harvest festival. The day is especially significant for Christians because it was seven weeks after the Resurrection, during *Shavuot*, that the Holy Spirit was poured out upon Jesus' first followers, empowering them for mission and gathering them as a church. The homily will focus on John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15 which invites reflection on the assurance of "abundant life" is made possible through the unfolding love of God, shown forth in the death and resurrection of Christ and in the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit who confirms that assurance in our hearts and sends us out into the world to bear witness to the good news.

◆ **Thank you** ◆

...to our coffee hour hosts this month Denise and Phil Farrauto

◆ **Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner** ◆

It's official now! On Thursday, May 10 – Rev. Dr. Gardner received his ThD and officially graduated. Remember to pass on your congrats to our very own Dr.²!

◆ **It's time to go for GOLD!!!** ◆

Case for Kids to support Wesley

Urban Ministries is coming! Join us on June 3 for a walk run or ride to end child poverty. Each year we have achieved silver pacesetter status as a team (\$1000 in donations). This year we are going for GOLD! Let's raise over \$2500! To participate get a form in the office or talk to Rev. Philip.

◆ **George Jacques** ◆

George Jacques, a long-time member of Melrose and of Melrose Choir tenor section, died on Thursday in the Carpenter Hospice in

Burlington. George's wife, Jean was the Soprano soloist for many years and together they participated in many choir musical presentations that entertained the congregation over many years. His family was with him during his final hours. George will be much missed as part of the musical community.

◆ **May 21 Holiday** ◆

Melrose will be closed on Monday May 21 for the Victoria Day holiday.

◆ **Melrose Corner Shoppe - Thinking "Green"** ◆

Let's count the ways The Melrose Corner Shoppe is "Green";

 **REDUCES** land-fill and re-cycling waste by re-selling books and re-purposing household items every month

 **REUSES** packing paper, bags, tags, giftbags and cards as well as all the lovely stock on the shelves

 **RECYCLES** everything in The Shoppe to a new home or to charity organizations (when the stock is changed)

Did you spot all TWELVE ways The Shoppe is "GREEN"?!

◆ **Melrose Garage Sale** ◆

Join us on May 26th @ 8am for our indoor garage sale!

We need the following:

- 1. Donations of gently used toys, furniture, household items**
- 2. Volunteers to assist setting up the garage sale on May 25th**
- 3. Volunteers to run the garage sale on May 26th**
- 4. Volunteers to take the left over items to various receiver stores**

Patti and Gwyn are happy to accept donations **BUT PLEASE DO NOT** bring the items to the church until after May 14th. Items can be picked up (if you are unable to bring them to church-contact Gwyn. Let's make this event a huge fundraising event for the church!

◆ Washroom Renovations Fundraising ◆

We are renovating the washroom along the lower corridor, located directly below the office. This washroom is used by people from the Norman Slater room, the gymnasium and the bowling alley, as well as by others. It will also be used this summer by the STEM camp that is using our auditorium. We plan to install a new floor, new toilets and new light fixtures, and we will probably also replace the counter and sinks. We will also be repainting the room. The cost is estimated to be \$10,000, including an allowance for contingencies.

Please consider making a donation to help cover the cost of this project. Please mark any donations as being for washroom renovations. We already have funds for two toilets, raised through the Easter breakfast.

If you wonder whether it needs renovations, please go take a look at this circa 1930s room!

◆ Presbytery Notes - May 1 Meeting ◆

- Guests were welcomed from the other three Presbyteries that with Hamilton will comprise Region #9 (Erie, Halton, Niagara) as well as the Transition Commissioner for this region, Cheryl-Ann Sadelbauer-Sampa (currently EO of London Conference). These guests outlined the character of their home presbyteries and also outlined important presbytery mission programmes that they would like assurance will be maintained and supported in the new structure.
- Pegi Ridout and Diane Blanchard offered a helpful presentation on a programme called "Fresh Start" which is a resource for transition. Fresh Start helps new pastoral relationships to get off to a good start in the first crucial months after a new minister arrives in a congregation.
- Andrea Buttars from Wesley Urban Ministries had some good news: Wesley's programmes will be expanding to the City of Brantford with a special emphasis on the crucial problem of

homelessness in that city. On a less optimistic note, Wesley's application to become Hamilton's safe injection site has run into a roadblock from the landlord of the buildings Wesley occupies on Ferguson. Presbytery passed a motion offering support to Wesley in their efforts to co-ordinate with the city to provide a much-needed safe injection site in an appropriately accessible area (the problem is that no one wants it in their backyard). The temporary solution currently under discussion is a mobile van.

- Elizabeth Agnew presented on behalf of Cave Springs Camp in Beamsville. Cave Springs is hoping to build a new facility called "Legacy Hall" and welcomes donations to cover the sizable cost. The new building would make Cave Springs viable on a year-round basis and would afford guests the opportunity to enjoy the splendid site of the Niagara Escarpment camp during the winter months. A brochure outlining the scope of the project is on the table in the Melrose narthex.

◆ **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.

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – May 14

Quilting Brownies, Guides	1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Auditorium Gym, Norman Slater Room
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Tuesday - May 15

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 - May 16

HPL: Locke Street Storytime	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Siva Yoga	10:30 a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room

Thursday - May 17

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
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 Soccer U12	7:30 p.m.	Gym

Friday – May 18

Executive Meeting: WrapAround	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Bookmobile: HPL	10:00 a.m.	Parking Lot

Saturday - May 19

Sunday – May 20

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