

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

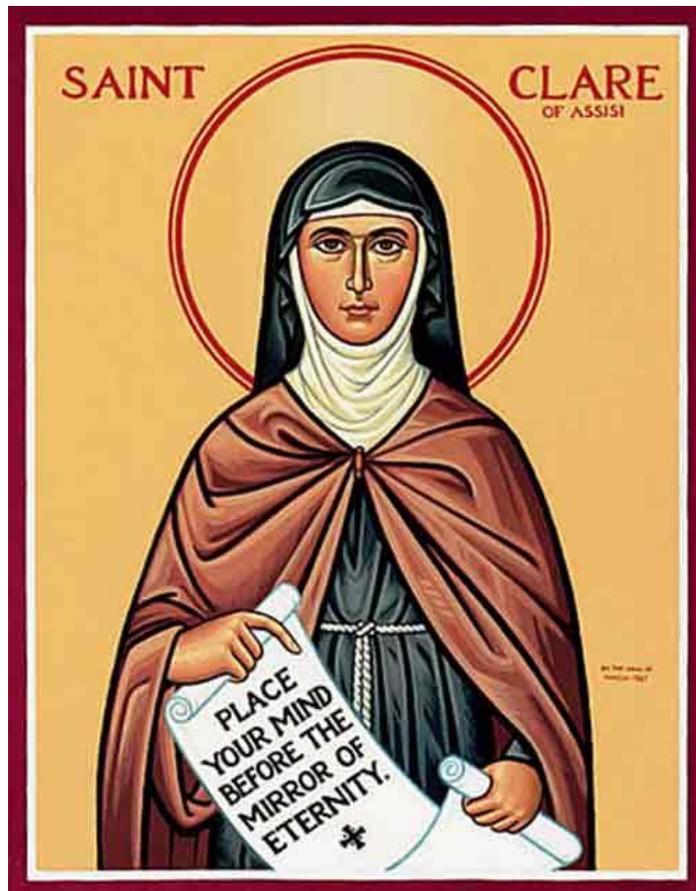
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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Kevin Geluch

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ Sunday, October 14, 2018 ◆

Pet Blessing Service

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018 ◆
PET BLESSING SERVICE
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT – O Holy Wisdom

VU 379 v. 3

* 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)

**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.**

◆ 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."

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

Reader: Shari Saunders

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 148

VU 871

THE GOSPEL – Mark 10: 17-31

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY: “Through the Eye of a Needle”

ANTHEM – Bless the Lord

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◆ RESPONSE ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

- * OFFERING HYMN – *For the Gift of Creation* VU 538
*For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.*

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)

★ CLOSING HYMN - *One More Step Along the World I Go* VU 639

CHORAL BLESSING - VU
423

*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.

◆ **Worship Next Week** ◆

Although the Season of Creation technically ends on Thanksgiving Sunday, unofficially we will extend it one extra week to honour our pets and the important role that they play in our lives. Pet blessing services are often held in October in honour of the legacy of St. Francis of Assisi (whose feast day is traditionally celebrated on October 4th). Francis was born in the late 12th century. He became the saint associated with animals, the health of the environment and with the liturgical practice of blessing pets. Francis is also remembered for his generosity to the poor and his ministry the sick (especially lepers). The blessing of animals gives us the opportunity to remember both God's care for all of creation and to remind us that humans are part of the great web of creation. This will be a service for all ages. During a brief sermon time, we will ponder Mark 10: 17-31, a lesson that offers two stories connected by the theme of the real cost (including financial) of discipleship.

◆ **Thank you...** ◆

Thank you to coffee hosts this month *Shari Saunders, Linda Saunders and Kathy Ross*



◆ **Transition Team Report:
at Congregational Meeting TODAY** ◆

At the conclusion of Rev. Liz Mackenzie's ministry in June 2015, the Pastoral Relations Committee of Hamilton Presbytery recommended that a period of Intentional Interim Ministry should take place at Melrose and articulated the following goals:

- Help to bring healing to the congregation
- Help to restore morale within the congregation
- Help to establish good governance behaviour within the congregation
- Work with the whole congregation to establish common mission and values

In addition to dealing with the motion concerning the repair to the electronic system of the Casavant organ, the Melrose Transition team will present an interim report to the congregation outlining the progress to date on each of these goals, concentrating in particular on the fourth (congregational identity and mission). The Transition team will offer its findings gleaned from the Official Board Retreat and Congregational Meeting held in the spring as well as correspondence received during the summer. The Team will further offer some non-binding recommendations about the future shape of ministry at Melrose.

◆ **Casavant Organ** ◆

The organ is in need of rather urgent and costly repair to its electronic system. The extent of the problem is significant, with only one of three keyboards currently working. The existing electronics were installed in the 1970s, and have lasted until very recently, however there is a risk currently of the entire instrument failing to work without notice.

We have obtained a quote of ~ \$24 000 to make the necessary repairs, which should fix the problem and return it to optimal condition. Fortunately, there are funds from which we can draw to pay for these repairs without adding to our deficit and withdrawing from the General Sustaining Fund. We are proposing to draw the bulk of the needed funds, \$18000, from the Organ Sustaining Fund, with the remainder coming from Memorial Funds. The choir has also committed to fundraising events to contribute to replenishing, at least in part, these funds. The terms of the Organ Sustaining Fund are that multiple approvals are required to authorize its use. The necessary approvals have been obtained from the Worship Committee and Official Board. In addition, a majority vote of the congregation is also required. Therefore, a congregational meeting will be held immediately following the service on **Sunday, October 14th**, where the following motion will be presented:

That the congregation approve the withdrawal of \$18 000 from the Organ Sustaining Fund to partially cover the work to make needed repairs to the electronic components of the Melrose Organ.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Evans – Chair, Official Board

◆ **Remembrance Day at Melrose 2018** ◆

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. In preparation for remembering members of the founding churches of Melrose who served, I am also researching other family ancestors of those who have joined Melrose since that time.

I would like to hear from anyone who had a family ancestor who served in WW1. This may have been your grandfather or great grandfather. I would like to be able to include their story in my research.

A great deal of information has recently become available in the national archives and I would like to assist those who are interested in learning more. The focus this year will be on WW1 but I can also provide help with information on other years of service. I can be reached at kholden2627@gmail.com or at 905-524-5724. – Ken Holden

◆ Social Justice Committee ◆

After service on Oct 21 Social Justice Committee will be hosting lunch in the parlour!

Come and enjoy a stuffed potato and dessert! All donations for the lunch will go towards WrapAround Hamilton to assist them in their outreach work.



◆ WrapAround Request ◆

Wraparound is currently helping a family who was recently homeless and is looking for a few house hold items:

- *3 dressers for children s room
- *Kitchen table and 7 chairs
- *Coffee table
- *Desk for homework
- *Pots and pans
- *Cutlery

If you are able to help please contact Libby Cook.

◆ Presbytery Report – October 2, 2018 ◆

The evening began with a presentation by guest speaker Sheila Macdonald Mcgregor. Sheila has recently published a book called *Re-Designing Your Life: A Practical Spirituality for the Second Half of Life* which suggests ways of living out the second half of your life with spiritual integrity. Her

study invites you to think about your life as a house undergoing renovations where, with God's grace, you get to design something new and life-giving in life's second half. Jean Bethune and the Rev. Christina Paradela then spoke about the work of the Transition Commission which is tasked with managing the shift from Hamilton Conference with its Presbyteries to the new Regional model. The Transition Team further discussed how ministry personnel will interact in the new church structure. Various possible types of "clergy clusters" were imagined. Andrea Buttars reported on behalf of Wesley Centre (for Andrea's news, check the Melrose "Wesley Centre" bulletin board in the office corridor). Debbie Christie presented a motion on behalf of the Pastoral Relations Committee proposing that the Interim Ministry of the Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner at Melrose United Church be extended to June 30, 2019. The motion carried.

◆ **Melrose United Church Cookbook!** ◆

Yes - finally a cookbook is being created! The cookbook team will be reaching out to everyone at Melrose to contribute their favourite recipes. Please start looking in your recipe files for recipes to share. There is a lot of cooking /eating history at Melrose; so bring out those memories! The Team will be handing out recipe templates in the next few weeks for everyone to write down their recipes. We hope to have the cookbook available by March 2019. This is a fundraiser for Melrose! Stay tuned!

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – October 15

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 - October 16

Pilates	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:00 p.m.	Parlour

Wednesday - October 17

Duet Club of Hamilton Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
HPL Storytime	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Sportball Hamilton Classes	10:00	Gym
Siva Yoga	a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Duet Club Executive Meeting	10:30	Sanctuary
Mindful Communication	a.m.	Parlour
	11:30	
	a.m.	
	5:15 p.m.	

Thursday - October 18

Parent Child Mother Goose	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
RSDCS Dancing Class	1:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Private Class	6:45 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 19

Bookmobile: HPL	10:00 a.m.	Parking Lot
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Saturday - October 20

Private Event	4:00 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
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Sunday – October 21

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