

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Kevin Geluch

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ Sunday, October 7, 2018 ◆

Thanksgiving Sunday

World Communion Sunday

Creation V

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2018** ◆
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
CREATION V

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT – Harvest Festival

H. Willan

* OPENING HYMN – *Come, You Thankful People*

VU 516

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: The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,

All: Thank you!

One: The hills and valleys are filled with colour, and we say,

All: Thank you!

One: The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say,

All: Thank you!

One: Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,

All: Thank you!

One: Our life is filled with love of family and friends, and we
say,

All: Thank you!

One: We fill this house of God with our voices, saying,

All: **Thank you!**

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

At this sacred season

**we come with thanksgiving into this holy place
remembering that before the mountains were formed
you knew us**

**and patterned the swirls on our fingertips
and coloured our eyes.**

God of infinite variety and magnitude

we praise you for life's seasons

of bittersweet and beauty,

sunshine and rain,

livestock and fowl,

orchards and vineyards,

for feast days and holidays,

for our life, for our breath.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

The earth is full of your glory!

Creator God

to you we sing songs of thanksgiving. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN – *Alleluia, Praise to God*

MV 59

◆ WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS ◆

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

One: The church is a community of people with varied gifts,
united by the Holy Spirit.

We gather to celebrate God's presence,
to discern God's truth,

and to follow the way of Jesus.

By our baptism we are made members of Christ's church.

We exercise this membership

in the denomination to which we belong,

which for us is the United Church of Canada,

and within the context of a local community of faith.

We are now to welcome into this congregation

two who are already members

of the church of Jesus Christ.

Margaret Duff:

On behalf of the Melrose congregation

I present the Windhorst Family

whom we welcome into the membership

of this community of faith.

One: Janelle and Eric, will you join with us

as together we celebrate God's presence,

live with respect in creation,

love and serve others,

seek justice and resist evil?

We will, with God's help.

(the congregation stands)

One: Dear friends in Christ,

let us pledge to Eric and Janelle our support and care.

All: As your sisters and brothers in Christ,

we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.

We pledge to you our love and our support.

With God's help, we will together live out

the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

One: Together, let us profess our faith:

All: 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*)

One: In the name of Jesus Christ,
we welcome you both to the privileges and responsibilities
of membership in this congregation.

We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

Let us pray:

God of mercy and love,
you welcome all who turn to you,
and give your Holy Spirit to those who ask.

Grant that Janelle and Eric may grow
into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Equip them with the gifts of your Holy Spirit,
and fill them with faith in Jesus Christ

and with love for all your people
in the service of your realm of Shalom.

All: Amen.

One: Go out into the world in the power of the Spirit.
Pursue justice, faith, love, patience, and humility,
for to this you are called.

All: Amen.

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Cheryl Evans

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 65

VU 782

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL – Joel 2: 21-27

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 6: 25-33

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN – *We Plough the Fields*

VU 520

SERMON: “Come to the Table!”

ANTHEM – Jubilate Deo!

D. Lantz

◆ **SERVICE OF THE TABLE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

* OFFERTORY HYMN – *Praise to God*

VU 243

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**Generous God, accept our gifts of gratitude
for what you have given to us in grace.**

**We acknowledge that all creation belongs to you
and that we are your stewards.**

**Guide us to be responsible with the world's abundance
so that we live justly and generously,**

**Bless these gifts that they may further the work of your church
to bring abundant life to all. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Come, for the Meal is Ready!
World Wide Communion**

The Invitation to Communion

Christ invites us all to this holy feast.

As we gather this morning,

we remember our sisters and brothers

from above and below the equator

from the North and from Down Under

from every time zone and around the globe.

As today's sunlight inches across land and sea

Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family.

All are invited and all are welcome.

The Peace

Let us greet one another in the name of Christ.

"May the peace of Christ be with you."

Prayer of Preparation

One: To God be the glory:

great things God has done!

To prepare ourselves to partake in this Holy Meal,

Let us pray:

Healing God, we come before you

broken, yet seeking wholeness,

isolated, yet seeking community,

overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity,

shamed, yet seeking grace:

All: God, we yearn for the healing you promise.

One: God of Justice,

we come before you

selfish, yet seeking a generous heart,

arrogant, yet seeking humility,

responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness:

All: God, we yearn for the justice you promise.

One: O God of peace,

we come before you afraid, yet seeking assurance

agitated, yet seeking serenity,

angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart.

All: God, we yearn for the peace you promise.

One: Knowing that through Christ all things are made new,

we come to this communion table

to be re-created through bread and cup, and

to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

All: God, we submit ourselves

to renewal through you.

this we pray through Jesus the Christ,

Amen.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Loving and gracious God

who summons galaxies into being,

we give thanks and blessings to you.

We bless you for our world.
The diversity of our planet amazes us
from the prairies and pampas of the Americas
to the dusty deserts of Africa and Asia,
from the majestic mountains of Europe
to the vast outbacks of Australia.
We give you thanks for the multiplicity of humanity
with our complexity of colour and culture
yet called into oneness of being through Christ.
With many tongues, yet one voice
we honour you, singing together:

All: (Singing)

VU 951

*Holy, holy, holy. Hosanna in the highest!
Let all creation praise and pray:
Save us, Holy God!*

One: Loving and gracious God
who surrounds creation with abiding love,
we give thanks and blessing to you.
We bless you for your love,
made known to us through Jesus Christ
which reassures and reconciles us
to you, to ourselves and to one another.
As Christ is our light to you,
may we be lights to others
illuminating the path toward communion with you,
the Holy Spirit and Jesus, our friend and brother.

All: (Singing) *Christ has died, is risen, will come again to meet us,
And walks with us the way of love,
Holy Kin(g)dom, come!*

The Words of Institution and Prayer for the Spirit

One: So it is we gather in praise and thanksgiving at this time.
We remember that when Jesus ate with his friends, he took

a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he gave it to them saying: "Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Each time you do this, remember me." Then he took the cup and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends saying: "Drink. This cup that is poured out for you is the promise of God made in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me." Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this loaf and cup may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world. In this hope and as your people, we praise you.

All: *(Singing) Holy, holy, holy. Amen, we pray, with longing. Let all creation cry, Amen! Holy kin(g)dom come!*

Intercessions

One: At this time, we also remember all with whom you would have us share your feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain, all who are ill or alone. We pray for all whose who suffer loss through natural disaster or human wrongdoing, those who are constricted by fear and anxiety. We pray for ourselves and for our church that we may always strive for justice, mercy and peace in the name of the one who taught us to pray together, singing (VU#959)... *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.*

The Blessing of the Elements

One: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbours far and near.

All: **Bless this bread, we pray.**

One: May this fruit of the vine remind us
of the inter-connectedness of people
around the world.

All: Bless this cup, we pray.

One: May this simple meal bring us into union with you,
your people, and your world.
united in One Body of Christ.

All: Amen.

The Sharing of the Elements

One: The gifts of God

All: for the people of God

*(our communion today will be received by intinction. If you are able, please come forward up the centre aisle. Pick up a piece of bread from the tray, dip it in the cup and **consume it immediately**, returning to your seats via the side aisles. The **lighter coloured** chalices contain **grape juice**, the **smaller dark green** chalices contain **wine**. If you are unable to come forward, the servers will gladly come and serve you in the pew. Please help them to locate you.)*

Communion Anthem: The Gift of Love
Soloist: Margaret Duff, soprano

H. Hopson

The Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

One: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

With thanksgiving,

Let us celebrate our new life in Christ

Giving thanks to God

Our Creator and Sustainer:

All: Loving and gracious God,

We thank you for this holy meal.

We thank you for Jesus and

**His all-inclusive love of humanity
We thank you for this day
In which we worship and serve you.
Amen.**

★ CLOSING HYMN – *Now Thank We All Our God*

VU 236

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

Our sacramental wine this morning comes to us as a gift from the Xagoraris family who purchased it during their recent summer trip to Greece. Wine aficionados will be interested to know that, it is called *Nama*, from Canava Roussos Wines; it consists of Mantilaria, Aidani, Asyrtiko, Athiri and Mavrathiro varieties. The instructions in the winery's pamphlet are: "set aside for Holy Communion." It seemed highly appropriate to use it this morning for our celebration of Thanksgiving Sunday and World Communion. At its recent meeting, the Worship Committee accepted this gift with gratitude and wondered about initiating a fun new Melrose tradition. If there are travels in your future, perhaps you could consider bringing back a bottle of red wine for your church community to share on a Communion Sunday?

◆ **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** ◆

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 to 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.

◆ Wesley Urban Ministries Dinner ◆

Thanks to all who contributed cookies to Wesley Urban Ministries dinner on Sept 30th. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who turned up to prepare and serve food, do dishes in Wesley's Kitchen last Sunday! Great team work and a job well done!

◆ Pet Blessing Service ◆

Next **Sunday, October 14**, Melrose will be celebrating the love of animals with a Blessing of Pets during our morning worship. You are invited to bring your house pet to the service. Dogs should be on a leash; other pets should be in a crate or cage. If your pet is very excitable, or not portable (such as a goldfish), please consider bringing a photo! Children who don't have a pet are invited to bring a favourite stuffed animal instead.

◆ 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

◆ **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 fiscal support to Melrose.

Ralph Moulton

◆ 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

◆ Transition Team Report: at Congregational Meeting Oct. 14th 2018 ◆

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.

◆ **Thank you...** ◆

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



◆ **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 8

Building Closed - Thanksgiving
Monday

Tuesday - October 9

Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:00 p.m.	Parlour

Wednesday - October 10

Duet Club of Hamilton Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
HPL Storytime	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Sportball Hamilton Classes	10:00 a.m.	Gym
Siva Yoga	10:30 a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Mindful Communication	5:15 p.m.	Auditorium
WIT Dinner	6:30 p.m.	Parlour
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room

Thursday - October 11

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 12

Bookmobile: HPL	10:00 a.m.	Parking Lot
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Saturday - October 13

Bach Elgar Rehearsal	10:00 a.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen
Acoustic Blend Café	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium, Parlour, Kitchen

Sunday – October 14 - Pet Blessing Sunday

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