

# ◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

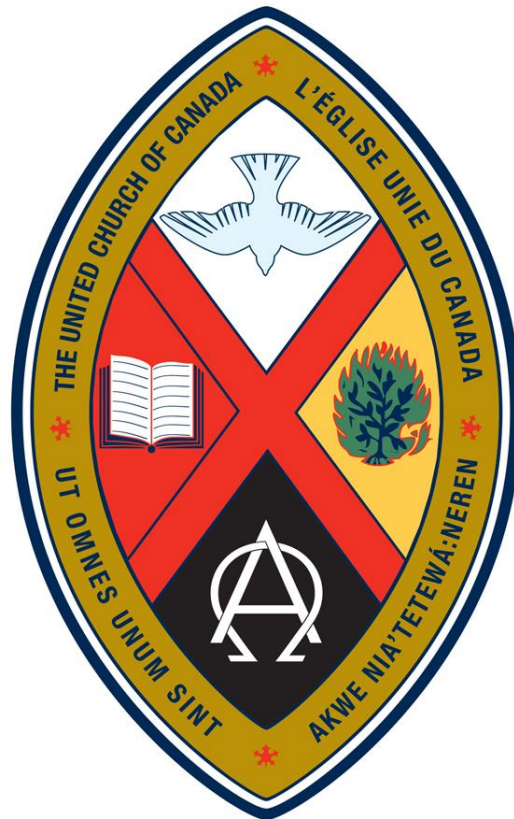
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◆ [www.melroseunited.ca](http://www.melroseunited.ca) ◆

◆ [www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch) ◆

◆ Twitter: @melroseunited ◆

◆ Instagram: @melroseuc ◆



Minister:

Music Director:

Family Ministries

Coordinator:

Custodian:

Office

Administrator:

Rev. Sonia Ireson

Alexander Cann

Meg Chalmers

Kevin Geluch

Michelle Millson

◆ **Sunday, March 8, 2020** ◆  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

**MELROSE UNITED CHURCH**

◆ SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020 ◆

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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

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◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT - Be Still and Know

MV 77

\* OPENING HYMN - *Lift High the Cross*

VU 151

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: We travel on as people of the Word, expressing our joy,  
facing our struggles with hope.

**All: The light of Jesus Christ, ever before us, lifts us up, and  
holds us in its illuminative power, grooming us as people  
of God.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On this second Sunday of Lent, we come seeking God.

**All: In this time of uncertainty in our lives and our world, we  
come seeking God.**

One: Quieting our minds, opening our hearts, and waiting for the divine  
mystery to make itself known;

**All: We come to worship God.**

PRAYER OF APPROACH (said together)

**All: Heavenly Father, we come to you today as Nicodemus came,  
unsure of what it means to be reborn in the Spirit. We know that  
we are born of the flesh and still there is so much more for us to  
be. Through your son, Jesus Christ, you showed us the way to the  
kingdom of heaven.**

**And so, we open ourselves to you; guide us along the narrow path that will bring us home to you. In this time of worship, we renew our covenant with you, trusting that we will be reborn in the new life in the Spirit today and every day. Amen**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

INVITATION

One: During the season of Lent, we focus, in part, on our relationship with God. Confession is one of the ways for turning back to God. Confession is a means by which we look deeply inside to discover the ways love has been blocked by our self-interests. Confession is our way of opening our heart unreservedly to God. Let us invite God's healing love to soften our hearts, opening the way for wholeness.

CONFESSION (said together)

**O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my worries and my trials. Answer me with faithfulness. I am not innocent, my trials and transgressions have burdened me. Help me up from this low place.**

**I remember all you have done for me;**

**I pray to you to lift me up from these depths.**

**Show that you are with me.**

**Find me, heal me for your love is always with me. Amen.**

*A Moment for Quiet Reflection...*

★ HYMN - Holy Spirit, come to us

MV 75

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Dear friends, let us remind each other that there is no remorse unnoticed, no deed or act that cannot be forgiven. No making of amends, sacrificial giving, or kindness escapes

God's awareness. Accept the mercy of Jesus and know that nothing can separate us from the love of our Creator.

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

\* HYMN - *True Faith Needs No Defence*

A TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

Reader: Ken Laidman

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 121

VU 844

WISDOM OF ISRAEL - Genesis 12: 1-4a

One: The Word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION: "Pass It On, A Story of Faith!"

ANTHEM - Kyrie, from *Missa brevis*

Palestrina

Translation: *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

THE GOSPEL - John 3: 1-17

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

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTION - "Faithful, But Not Yet Committed!"

\* HYMN - *If You Will Trust in God to Guide You*

VU 286

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

★ OFFERING HYMN – *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*  
*praise God, all creatures high and low;*  
*give thanks to God in love made known:*  
*Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

VU 541

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**Loving and generous God, you have blessed us in so many ways. We now return a portion of your gifts; use them for the work of your church, multiply them and share them with those in need. By your grace, make our lives a testament to your love. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

concluded by the Prayer of Jesus

**All: 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 sin 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  
for for ever. Amen.**

★ CLOSING HYMN – *To Abraham and Sarah*

VU 634

COMISSIONING

BENEDICTION

One: Would you please bless one another – by raising your arms –  
as I do – and we will say together....

**All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**The love of God,**

**And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of us.**

**Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE – May the Grace of Christ

VU 419

*May the grace of Christ our Saviour, and our Maker's boundless love,  
with the Holy Spirit's favour.*

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!

After service we join together in the church parlour for refreshments and fellowship. Kids are welcome to hang out in the Children's corner at the front of the church during service and join the programming in the auditorium after Children's Time.

Children are also always welcome to stay in the sanctuary for the entire service if they choose.

### ◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Next week is the Third Sunday in Lent. And the Israelites are on their journey through the wilderness, their Exodus from exile and slavery. They are tired, frustrated, dusty and thirsty. They are an unhappy lot, complaining and quarrelsome, as most likely we would be too under the same circumstances. Moses is fed up with them and asks God to intervene.

The same staff that Moses held up to part the Red Sea is called into action once more, this time to strike a rock. God calls forth fresh spring water to quench their thirst and remind them that their God is still amongst them and cares about their comfort.

John's Scripture for today ties in the theme of water. A Samaritan woman (not favoured by the Jews) comes to a well to draw water and encounters "the living water" in Jesus Christ. This is a familiar passage that serves to open up a number of limitations between the Jewish people and those on whose land they cross - religious, social, political and gender. As she converses with him,

she ponders, Could this be the Christ? In retelling her conversation with Jesus she becomes the first Gentile witness to her whole town. This encourages us to be aware that Jesus meets each of us right where we are.

◆ **Thank you...** ◆

Thank you to coffee hosts today Barb and Keith Mann



◆ **Easter and Chancel Flowers and Gifts** ◆

Memorial donations for Easter and Chancel Flowers and Gifts will be accepted until **Palm Sunday, April 5**. Celebrate the memory of someone special to you and your family with a donation to the Easter and Chancel Flower and Gift Fund. The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary on **Easter Sunday, April 12**, and on other special Sundays throughout the year. Special donation envelopes are available in the narthex and in the sanctuary, with an enclosed paper for writing memorial names.



Consider joining us for this church-wide event. Bring family and friends and test your knowledge!

# MELROSE UNITED CHURCH



## TRIVIA NIGHT

**FRIDAY MARCH 13TH 6:30 PM**

**BRING A TEAM \$5.00**

**SNACKS PROVIDED**

Questions? Contact Meg at  
[mufamilyministries@gmail.com](mailto:mufamilyministries@gmail.com)



Please bring a canned food  
item for a local food bank



◆ USHERS NEEDED ☺ ◆

Due to the Lenten Melrose Recital Series Throughout March we need two ushers per Sunday afternoon to assist with welcoming folk into the church. The time commitment would be from 2:40pm - 3:30pm on either March 8, 15, 22, 29th. These Recital Series will be a delight to the ears!. If you have time to donate, please speak to Gwyneth X. after church or email at [gwynxag@gmail.com](mailto:gwynxag@gmail.com)



**MARCH 1 @ 3:00 PM**  
**CHORAL: BACH AND PALESTRINA**

*Melrose Chancel Choir (with guests from The Bach Elgar Choir), Alexander Cann, director, with Allana Stevenson, soprano, Chris Palmer, baritone, and Kirk Starkey, cello*

**MARCH 8 @ 3:00 PM**  
**ORGAN: PAUL GRIMWOOD**

*Masterworks by Rheinberger, Vierne, and Buxtehude performed on Melrose's magnificent 1931 Casavant organ by Paul Grimwood.*

**MARCH 15 @ 3:00 PM**  
**CHAMBER: VIOLIN AND PIANO**

*Music of Mozart, Bartok, and Clara Schumann  
Megan Jones, violin, and Alexander Cann, piano*

**MARCH 22 @ 3:00 PM**  
**FOR KIDS: CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS**

*A performance for the young and young at heart featuring Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saens. Krista Rhodes, piano, Alexander Cann, piano, Steve Dylag, master of ceremonies*

**MARCH 29 @ 3:00 PM**  
**VOCAL: CELINE CASCANETTE**

*Selections by Schubert, Mozart, and Gounod on a theme of love. Celine Cascanette, mezzo-soprano, and Krista Rhodes, piano*

All concerts pay-as-you-can; Suggested donation \$15  
[melroseunited.ca](http://melroseunited.ca)

## MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Monday – March 9

Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Alley
Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium

### Tuesday - March 10

<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Parlour</b>
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley

### Wednesday - March 11

Duet Club of Hamilton	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	N. S. Room
Pickup Basketball	7:45 p.m.	Gym

### Thursday – March 12

Mother Goose	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
R.S.D.C.S. Class	1:00 p.m.	N.S. Room
Montessori School Gym Use	1:30 p.m.	Gym
Bowling	1:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
English Country Dancing	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Yoga Evening Group	7: 00 p.m.	N.S. Room
<b>Melrose Choir Practice</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley

### Friday - March 13

<b>Trivia Night</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Auditorium, Parlour</b>
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### Saturday - March 14

Mindful Communication	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Retreat	7:30 p.m.	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>Acoustic Blend Cafe</b>		

### Sunday - March 15

<b>Melrose Choir Practice</b>	<b>9:50 a.m.</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
<b>Melrose Worship</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Melrose Recital Series</b>	<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>