

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

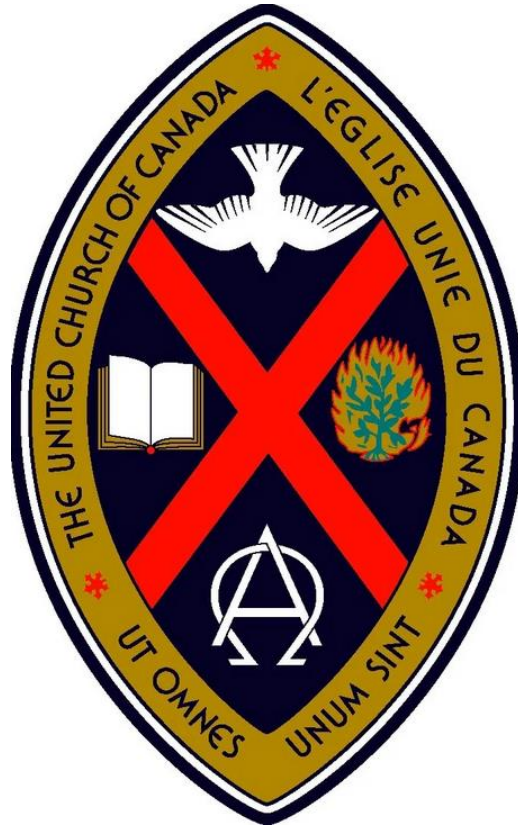
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Minister:

Music Director:

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Custodian:

Office Administrator:

Rev. Sonia Ireson

Alexander Cann

Meg Chalmers

Kevin Geluch

Michelle Millson

◆ **Sunday, January 19, 2020** ◆
Covenanting Service for Rev. Sonia Ireson

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020 ◆
CONVENANTING SERVICE

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

◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT – Teach Me, O Lord

T. Atwood

* OPENING HYMN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY – Cheryl Evans

One: Today we remember our relationship with First People which has not always been healing and empowering. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home. - the Haudenosaunee and the Anishnaabe people. We acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of these indigenous people with whom we share this land today.

WORDS OF WELCOME – Cheryl Evans

One: We are delighted to gather to mark this ministry relationship in Horseshoe Falls Regional Council between Rev. Sonia Ireson and Melrose Pastoral Charge. We welcome Rev. Lynn Godfrey, Regional Council liaison, and guest minister, Rev. Bert Radford. We also welcome friends

and family and regional guests. Today we commit to celebrate how we are the church together.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Into a world shrouded in darkness came the divine gift of a humble baby boy.

All: He brought the light and awareness of God's love for all peoples. He walked and lived amongst us, teaching, healing and reconciling us unto himself. The light of Christ can never be extinguished.

CALL TO WORSHIP - Meg Chalmers

One: We gather this afternoon to acknowledge and confirm the ministry that began three months ago in this place.

All: Our journey has already begun. We are seeking community together where all are welcome and feel like they belong.

One: There are no strangers here, those who are seeking deeper meaning, those who have doubts, those whose faith is like a rock, all are questioning and growing together. Welcome family, friends and newcomers.

All: We come together as a worshipping church, and we pray for the strength, faith and love to blend our spiritual gifts into a communal act of love for all God's created world.

OPENING PRAYER - Meg Chalmers

One: As the days slowly begin to lengthen, we pray O God for your power-filled presence in our lives and in our shared ministry. Help us to seek out ways we may grow together in the mission of changing lives, healing hurts, and

exploring new ways to be the church of Jesus Christ.
Help us to be the voice of the powerless, to speak out
against injustice and to model the compassion and inclusion
of Jesus.
Amen.

★ HYMN

Reader: Carolin Ireson-MacMillan

EPISTLE: Philippians 2: 1-11

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20: 20-28

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

All: Praise to you, Christ, our Saviour.

SERMON – “One Who Serves” - Rev. Bert Radford

ANTHEM: I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light K. Thomerson

◆ **COVENANTING ACTION** ◆

STATEMENT OF LIVING FAITH STORY – Cheryl Evans

STATEMENT OF THIS NEW MINISTRY

Cheryl Evans invites Rev. Sonia Ireson forward

REGIONAL COUNCIL LIASON - Rev. Lynn Godfrey

One: Sonia Ireson, you are here in response to the appointment of
Melrose community of faith and Horseshoe Falls Regional

Council. We come together to mark this new relationship within our regional council for the sake of our shared ministry.

Sonia Ireson, you are about to undertake the ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care in this place.

You, the members of this community of faith, are called to join Sonia Ireson in worship, study, prayer, and action.

We, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council, will be responsible for supporting this ministry.

Let us pray for God's grace as we covenant together:

PRAYER: led by Cheryl Evans (said by all)

Holy One, receive our prayers with gentleness.

Bring to this covenant relationship, patience and perseverance.

Help us to help each other search out our spirits and our gifts, that we might support each other in the work that we need to do together.

May quiet words bring to us a sense of peace and a glimmer of your intentions for us.

Encouraged by love and intrigued by mystery may we listen.

Amen.

★ HYMN

PROMISES OF THE NEW MINISTER – Rev. Lynn Godfrey

Sonia Ireson, do you, in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with *Melrose*?

Sonia Ireson: I do.

Lynn Godfrey: Will you accept the guidance of Horseshoe Falls regional council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of *Melrose* community of faith?

Sonia Ireson: I will.

Lynn Godfrey: Will you share in the ministry goals and faith story of this community of faith?

Sonia Ireson: I will.

Lynn Godfrey: Will you accept the support and encouragement of this community of faith and this regional council?

Sonia Ireson: I will.

Lynn Godfrey: Will you work cooperatively with the wider church and wider community to embody God's love in the world?

Sonia Ireson: I will.

PROMISES OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Lynn Godfrey: Will you join with *Sonia Ireson* in a ministry of worship, study, prayer, and action within Melrose Community of Faith, Horseshoe Falls regional council and within the wider church?

Members of the community of faith: We will.

PROMISES OF REGIONAL COUNCIL, WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Members of the wider church and community please stand, if able.
Lynn Godfrey: Will you, as members of Horseshoe Falls regional council and members of the wider community, join with *Sonia Ireson* and this community of faith in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

Wider community members: We will.

Lynn Godfrey: Will you support and encourage them in this ministry:

Wider community members: We will.

★ HYMN OF CELEBRATION

PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS

All Presenters are from the Worship Committee and are asked to come forward. The items to be presented will be at the front.

GIFT FROM MELROSE CHURCH

Libby Cook and Alex Cann:

Take this Bible and Hymn Book. Be with us as one who teaches and proclaims the Word.

People: Amen

Sonia places the bible and hymn book on the table.

WATER AND BASIN AND A TOWEL

Pitcher of water, basin and towel are carried to Sonia.

Sylvia Chitty, Margaret Duff and Cathy Ross: Be with us as one who baptizes in the name of Christ.

Sonia takes the pitcher and places the basin in the font, then pours the water into the basin and places the towel on the font.

People: Amen.

BREAD, WINE and JUICE:

Tim Webb, Carolyn Duff and Denise Farrauto: Be with us as one who cares for those who hunger and thirst.

People: Amen.

Sonia places the bread, wine and juice upon the table.

Lynn Godfrey:

Sonia Ireson and Melrose community of faith, let all these be signs of the ministry that is and that will be in this community.

People: Amen.

* HYMN

RESPONSE TO THE COVENANT

Lynn Godfrey: Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – Sonia Ireson

One: Let us pray, please respond to “Hear O God, our prayers...”

All: And in your love, answer.

One: Loving God, we give you thanks for moments of intimacy with you, for joy in shared community, family, friends and new acquaintances. We ask that you prod us to be open to new experiences, to welcome all in your name. “Hear, O God, our prayers... **All: And in your love, answer.**

One: Ever-present God, we pray for Melrose community of faith, our regions and our United Church of Canada and all our associated ministries around the world that they may translate our common goals of acceptance, justice and peace for all. "Hear, O God, our prayers...**All: And in your love, answer.**

One: Holy God, you bring us together through advancing technology where we can share and worship, petition and celebrate, care and respond. We feel the groans and cries of those who suffer – injustice, natural disasters, violence, fear, hatred. With our awareness of need, comes our collective response to act in your name, to right wrongs, to speak out and to comfort. "Hear, O God, our prayers... **And in your love, answer.**

One: God of Mystery, we live in a world that neglects you, that finds many ways to seek you, that offers temptations that draw us from your path, yet you continually find ways to reach out to us, to nudge us and point us towards wholeness. When we falter, open our eyes...."Hear, O God, our prayers...**And in your love, answer.**

One: For all the prayers that lay trapped in the silence of our hearts, all our yearnings spoken and unspoken, gather them up in your wisdom. "Hear, O God, our prayers...**And in your love, answer.**

We pray now, as Jesus taught us..

**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 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 forever. Amen.

★ CLOSING HYMN - *One More Step Along the World I Go* VU 39

BENEDICTION - Rev. Sonia Ireon

POSTLUDE