

◆ **MELROSE UNITED CHURCH** ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

905 522 1323 ◆ melrose@melroseunited.ca

◆ www.melroseunited.ca ◆

◆ www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch ◆

◆ Twitter: @melroseunited ◆

◆ Instagram: @melroseuc ◆

First
SUNDAY IN
LENT



Minister:

Music Director:

Family Ministries

Coordinator:

Custodian:

Office Administrator:

Rev. Sonia Ireson

Alexander Cann

Meg Chalmers

Kevin Geluch

Michelle Millson

◆ **Sunday, March 1, 2020** ◆
First Sunday in Lent

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020 ◆
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT – Be Still and Know

J. Bell

* OPENING HYMN – *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

VU 120

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Fire and light come together in the flames that dance atop
this candle.

**All: Refining fire, fire that burns, light that pierces, light that
soothes. Thanks be to God for fire and light.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: I invite you to take a moment now and center yourself
deeply in the love of God. Some people like to plant their
feet firmly on the ground; others like to open their hands,
welcoming and receiving. Find the position that is best for
you.

All: We breathe into our core the life-giving Spirit of God;

One: We breathe out the cares and anxieties;

All: We breathe in goodness and truth;

One: We breathe out fearfulness and worry.

All: Come let us worship God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (said together)

Great and Glorious God, your house is a place of prayer, formation, help and hope.

Turn us into your prayer for the world.

Turn us to the place where life enters into us.

Help us in this Season of Lent to open ourselves to your quiet liberation and boundless light. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

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)

Holy Lord, we approach you again in worship seeking your wisdom. We come to church to be directed and redirected by you. Remind us again that we do not live to serve ourselves. We are created in the image of God, to be a blessing to this world in every way. Be our true north. Like a GPS that maps out our best route, alerting us at every crossroad, direct us. Give us wisdom to turn to your will and to do U-turns, when necessary. Oh, how lost we sometimes are, when we are harsh with others, quick to judge, or stiff and stubborn. Help us to live your love, expecting that others are offering their best, giving the benefit of the doubt, and being forgiving. Love us, O Lord. Help us to follow your pathway of love and your highway of compassion. Amen.

A Moment for Quiet Reflection...

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: We just shared a prayer about sin. What do you think Jesus most wants us to confess? Sin or faith? Surely the good news is not so much sin focused as love focused. So, if an assurance of pardon sounds clinical, may I assure you that it is really an assurance of love, that you live in a state of being loved, of being forgiven, and of belonging. Having been assured, we are invited to love and forgive others.

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

A TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

Reader: Ken Holden

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 32

VU 759

WISDOM OF ISRAEL – Genesis 2: 15-17 and 3: 1-7

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: “Eyes Open, Taking on the Role of God!”

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 4: 1-11

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

★ HYMN – *Come, O Font of Every Blessing*

VU 559

REFLECTION – “The Heart of Darkness!”

◆ **SERVICE OF THE TABLE** ◆

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

* OFFERTORY HYMN – *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

VU 473

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

Receive these gifts that we have been given, God, as a symbol of all that we seek to be and to do in your way. Bless what we have offered and direct us in the use of these offerings for your glory and for the well-being of all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

One: The Lord is with you,

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Blessed are you, gracious God,

Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.

You guide the sun, cradle the moon, and toss the stars.

At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets.

You breathe life into us and set us among all your creatures in a covenant of love and service.

Even when we turn away from you, you do not forsake us. You send your prophets to proclaim your justice, to remind us of your promise of peace, and to call us back to you.

All: Creator, Christ and Spirit, we praise you for your love revealed to us in Jesus, who walks with us, our Wisdom and our Way, sharing our joy and sorrow, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and setting the captive free. So it is that we join the song of all creation to proclaim your goodness:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord **Sung VU 943**
God Of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the He who comes in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the highest.

SHARING IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(All are invited to share The Peace with one another)

A NEW CREED - Said together

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.**

One: Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth
We recognize the fullness of your grace:
Light, life, and love, revealed in words that confront and
comfort us, in teachings that challenge and change us,
In compassion that heals and frees us.

And now we gather at this table to remember and to be filled
with such longing for your realm, that we may rise together to
turn our worship into witness and to follow in your way.
We remember that when Jesus ate with his friends, he took a
loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to
them saying:

**All: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do
this, remember me."**

(Bread is broken)

One: Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his
friends, saying:

**All: "Drink. This cup that is poured out for you is the promise of
God, made in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember
me."**

(Cup is raised)

One: At this time, we also remember all with whom you would have
us share this feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or in
pain...

All who are ill or alone..

We pray for Loretta, Flo, Fred, and Vic

All who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...

For all whom the world counts as last and least...

We pray for the church and its varied ministries...

For nations as they strive for peace and justice...
For all our families and friends...
In the silence of our hearts, we raise up the names before you now
of those we hold most dear as we ask for their safe-keeping.

**All: Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering
Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in
hope for His coming again. Grant that, in praise and
thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives
may proclaim the mystery of faith:**

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again**

Sung VU 943

One: 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.
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, all glory is yours. God most holy, now and forever.

All singing: Amen, Amen, Amen

VU 943

Our Lord's Prayer - Original Version - said together
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

** Elements are served by intinction (dipping the bread into the wine or the juice, hold your hand underneath to catch any drips. The response to the server is "Amen.")

One: This is not your table, nor mine - All are welcome at the table of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTHEM: O Sacred Feast

H. Willan

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (said by all)

**For the bread we have eaten,
For the wine we have tasted,
For the life we have received,
We thank you God.**

Grant that what we have done

And have been given here,

May so put its mark on us

That it may remain always in our hearts.

**Grant that we may grow in Christian love and understanding, and
that ours may be lives of faithful action, in Christ's name. Amen.**

★ CLOSING HYMN - *Let there be Light*

VU 679

COMMISSIONING

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 -

VU 973

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 Second Sunday in Lent. Our Old Testament Scripture focuses on Abraham, the first Patriarch that brings awareness that there is One God over all.

Abraham's obedience and relationship with God leads to a covenant of blessings received and then expected to be passed on. God said he would cause many nations to arise from the children of Abraham. What is interesting about Abraham is that he is equally revered by three major religions - Jewish, Islamic and Christian. (This background is thanks to my daughter, Carolin's, religious studies course at MacMaster -Abrahamic Religions - Judaism, Christianity and Islam.)

Again I will be giving two reflections. The first based on this story is "Pass it on, A Story of Faith!"

The Gospel of John tells us about a conversation between Nicodemus, a Pharisee, and Jesus. It is the basis of "Born Again" theology. Jesus

says no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. Nicodemus wants to know if one is old, how does one enter the mother's womb again to be born. Of course, this is not the intent of Jesus' teaching, it is rather to say that one is born of water and spirit into new life not in a physical sense, rather as a new spiritual being.

My second reflection based on this passage is "Faithful, but not yet committed!"

We can see that this Sunday is concerned with the response of the faithful - One on the move, the other raising questions to try to understand.

We all struggle as followers of Jesus in trying to understand scripture and live in relationship with God and then, be open and obedient in our response.

◆ **Thank you...** ◆

Thank you to coffee hosts today



◆ **Tonight...** ◆

World Day of Prayer will be held at St John's Anglican Church on Friday March 6th. Refreshments at 630 pm service to begin at 700pm This year the service is the Women of Zimbabwe with special guest speaker Emma Cuthbert. This is an annual ecumenical service that Melrose had participated in for many years

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



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 1, 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



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

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – March 2

Bowling Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders	1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Bowling Alley Gym, Auditorium
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Tuesday - March 3

Bible Study Bach Elgar Rehearsal Tai Chi	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Parlour Sanctuary Bowling Alley
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Wednesday - March 4

Duet Club of Hamilton Mindfulness Group Pilates Resource Management Meeting Pickup Basketball	9:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	Parlour Parlour N. S. Room Chapel Gym
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Thursday - March 5

Mother Goose R.S.D.C.S. Class Montessori School Gym Use Bowling English Country Dancing Yoga Evening Group Melrose Choir Practice Tai Chi	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7: 00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Parlour N.S. Room Gym Bowling Alley Auditorium N.S. Room Chapel Bowling Alley
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Friday - March 6

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Saturday - March 7

Tom Schilling: Master Class	7:00 p.m.	Chapel
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Sunday - March 8

Melrose Choir Practice Melrose Worship Melrose Recital Series Confirmation Class	9:50 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 3:00 p.m. T.B.D.	Chapel Sanctuary Sanctuary Norman Slater Room
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