

◆ 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 ◆



Minister:

Music Director:

Family Ministries Coordinator:

Custodian:

Office Administrator:

Rev. Sonia Ireson

Alexander Cann

Meg Chalmers

Kevin Geluch

Michelle Millson

◆ **Sunday, February 16, 2020** ◆

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcoming New Members

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020 ◆
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

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

◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT – Invitation to Prayer

D. Grotenhuis

* OPENING HYMN - *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

VU 220

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Light of new Life, shine around us and through us.

All: Gather us in that we may be grounded in you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Many of us spend our lives rushing to get things done, to go to places we need to be, to achieve our destinies.

All: Some of us spend our time hurrying from one place to another, through one activity on the way to another, forgetting to take time to enjoy what is around us.

One: On this Sabbath day, let us slow our hurrying and calm our rushing, taking time to settle into worship and taking time to settle into God.

All: God is here, with us now, with us always. Let us recognize this Holy Presence as we worship today.

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

Eternal God, who sustains all who follow Jesus,

We are sensitive to your tugging in our hearts.

In this time of worship, when we pause from the matters in our daily life, we come to this time of oasis – our still-point with you.

As we open our bodies, our minds, and our hearts to you, enrich us with your knowledge, your wisdom, and your words.

Strengthen us with your confidence and with your community that is ours also; sustain us for the days ahead so we can accept what will be. Amen.

WELCOME AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

★ HYMN –*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

VU 703

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming New Members

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 one member new to the United Church and three members by transfer.

Presentation

Representative of Congregation: On behalf of Melrose Congregation, I present the following persons whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith:

Geoffrey Harrison,

George Mayhew

Heurtha Thomson

All three were former members of Zion United Church, now closed. We are pleased to receive them by transfer.

And Janet Landeen, who has been part of our choir and today joins us as a new member.

Commitment of New Members:

Geoff, George, Heurtha and Jan, 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?

Response: *I will, with God's help.*

Congregational Commitment

(Please stand, if able)

One: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to Geoff, George, Heurtha, and Jan our support and care.

**All: As your brothers and sisters 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.**

Corporate Profession of Faith

All: A New Creed

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.**

Welcome

One: In the name of Jesus Christ,
We welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of
membership in this congregation.
We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

Prayer

One: O God, we know your will for us is health and wholeness.
We trust that you walk with us always.
We believe that you reveal your goodness in those who are
called according to your will.

All: Today, we rejoice that your Spirit has touched the life of
Geoff, George, Heurtha, and Jan, renewing their faith and
rekindling their love for you. In the days to come, may we
expect great things from you, and attempt great things for

you. In the name of the one who calls us friends. Amen.

Blessing

One: The grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
The Holy Spirit keep you. Amen.
(all return to their seats)

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

Reader: Gwyneth Xagoraris

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 119, Parts 1 & 2

VU 838

WISDOM OF ISRAEL – Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: “Choose Life!”

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 5: 21-37

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

All: Praise to you, Christ, our Saviour.

THE EPISTLE – 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

One: Feel the Spirit moving among us.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

★ HYMN – *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

VU 364

REFLECTION: "In the Seed a Hidden Promise"

ANTHEM - Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen J. Barron

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

* OFFERING HYMN - *In Gratitude and Humble Trust* VU 544

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said by all)

**We offer these gifts as a token of our witness to your love.
May they inspire love in the places forgotten. May they
encourage where confidence has been broken. And may they
be instruments of good for the world. 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 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 for for ever. Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN - *We Turn to You* VU 685

COMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE - Amen, Amen, Amen

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** ◆

Fresh from last week's welcoming of four new members into our faith community, I would like to think we are a church on the move. There are many signs of new life and enthusiasm to encourage and bring us hope as we share in the ongoing ministry of a church called by Jesus Christ.

Next week is our Annual General Meeting following Worship with pot luck lunch. There are those who would prefer to run for the hills rather than attend. However, I encourage you to come out and review our year with its many transitions. We will celebrate how far we have come, and we will talk about what we have still to accomplish. Bring your openness to listen, and share your ideas.

There are so many dedicated people at Melrose who volunteer their time in many ways. New members will take on new roles and some will move around. If there is somewhere you feel called to volunteer your time, a committee for which you have an interest, please make your wishes known to our Board Chair, Cheryl Evans. It is always exciting to welcome a new perspective and new ideas.

Next week is known as Transfiguration Sunday - While on the mountain top with two of His disciples, the light of God shone on Jesus and again we hear God's pleasure - "You are my beloved son." My sermon topic will highlight the joys of Melrose congregation working together as transformed people, disciples of the Risen Christ.

◆ **Thank you...** ◆

Thank you to coffee hosts today - Pam and Ken Holden and Shari Saunders

◆ **Annual Reports are now available!** ◆

Hard copies of the Annual Report are available today in the parlour after worship. Please sign the sheet indicating you have received your copy. If possible, one copy per household, please.

◆ **2019 Tax Receipts are now available** ◆

Help the office save on mailing costs and pick yours up in the parlour today!

◆ **Melrose AGM** ◆

The Melrose Annual General Meeting will be held immediately following the worship service on **February 23rd**. Please bring a lunch for you and your family. As required, notice is also being given that the following motion will be considered at that meeting:

That the congregation approve the withdrawal of up to \$9200 from the capital of the Sustaining Fund to support the Melrose 2020 operating budget.

Cheryl Evans, Chair of Official Board

◆ **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

◆ **Social Justice Announcements** ◆

Thanks for all the stamps submitted for donation to the Leporsy Mission Canada, now called Effect Hope. They continue to accept stamps and old post cards prior to 1960. Bring your donations to the church office.

The Intrepid Jamming Group of Melrose is asking for jam jars! Keep them coming! Bring all 250ml or 1litre Mason/Bernardin empty jars to the Church Kitchen. We cannot accept old jars that have been used for other food products.

Melrose Recital Series 2020

March 1:

Melrose Choir

*with special guests members of the Bach Elgar Choir, Kirk Starkey, cello
Featuring: Allana Stevenson, soprano, Chris Palmer, baritone*

March 8:

Paul Grimwood, organ

March 15:

Megan Jones, violin, Alexander Cann, piano

March 22:

Krista Rhodes, piano, Alexander Cann, piano

March 29:

Celine Cascanette, mezzo-soprano

JOIN US FOR

Prayer Shawl

and *Outreach Ministry*

February 29
@ 9:30am



Join us on Saturday February 29 in the church parlour for fellowship, tea, coffee and a snack. Wool, knitting needles, crochet hooks and patterns are supplied. The finished projects are blessed during a church service and distributed to members and friends of the congregation during times of sickness and struggle or times of joy like the birth of a child or graduation from high school.

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – February 17

Melrose Closed: Family Day

Tuesday - February 18

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

Wednesday - February 19

Duet Club of Hamilton	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Mindfulness Group	5:30 p.m.	Parlour
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	N. S. Room
Pickup Basketball	7:45 p.m.	Gym

Thursday - February 20

Mother Goose	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
R.S.D.C.S. Class	1:00 p.m.	N.S. Room
Daycare Yoga	2:15 p.m.	Parlour
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
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley

Friday - February 21

Executive Meeting WrapAround	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
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Saturday - February 22

Private Event	8:00 p.m.	Auditorium
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Sunday - February 23

Melrose Choir Practice	9:50 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Melrose Annual General Meeting	11:30 a.m.	Auditorium
Confirmation Class	T.B.D.	Norman Slater Room