

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Family Ministries Coordinator: Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Kevin Geluch

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ Sunday, January 27, 2019 ◆

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Featured Window - "Abraham and Sarah" - South Aisle

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019 ◆
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIHPANY
FEATURED WINDOW - "ABRAHAM AND SARAH" - SOUTH AISLE

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE - Nocturne in E-flat Major, Opus 9, No. 2 F. Chopin

INTROIT - Jesu, Our Blessed Hope of Heaven G. Young

* OPENING HYMN - *God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us* VU 399

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ has come to us.

All: Let us celebrate God's abiding love!

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Gen. 2 and Ps 121)

One: As God set Abraham and Sarah on a journey,
God calls us to follow in trust.

**All: God is able to make us more than we have been
and blesses us on the way.**

One: Who is our keeper?

**All: The Lord is our keeper,
by day and by night.**

One: How long will God protect us?

**All: God will keep our going out and our coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)
Creator God, maker of heaven and earth,
lead us to the still waters when the storms are raging.
Lead us through the mountains and valleys.
May we know You are guiding us always
on this journey of faith.
Sometimes we find You are leading the way;
sometimes You are the one who pushes
and prods us from behind,
making sure we are not lost or lagging.
Most of all, may we feel Your presence
beside us and within us.
Lead us into the way of abundant life.
In the name of Christ, our companion, we pray. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN – *Like a Rock*

MV 92

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Alan Bentley

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 121

VU 844

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL – Genesis 12: 1-4a

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE – Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN – *Bathe Me in Your Light*

MV 82

SERMON: “Little Risk, Little Faith”

ANTHEM – All the Diamonds

B. Cockburn, arr. L. Nickel

◆ **SERVICE OF THE TABLE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING – Solitude

D. Ellington

* OFFERING HYMN – *Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness*

HB 33 Verse 4

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before God, God's glory proclaim
Gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
These are the offerings we lay at God's shrine.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said by all)

**Gracious God,
we dedicate to you not only these gifts,
but also ourselves, in deep gratitude –
for your call on our lives,
for your guidance,**

and for blessing us.

May we be a blessing to others.

Accept what we bring

for your own good purposes.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

(followed by the Prayer of Jesus, VU 916)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

★ CLOSING HYMN – *To Abraham and Sarah*

VU 634

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE – *May God's Sheltering Wings*

MV 214

*May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.*

POSTLUDE – *Au Privave*

C. Parker

*A thank you to Stuart Feenstra,
baritone saxophone
for the special music this morning.*

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.

♦ Worship Next Week ♦

During worship on the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, we will move back into the ecumenical lectionary. Featured among the scripture readings is Paul's great hymn to love (1 Corinthians 13: 1-13). This text has been effectively hijacked into romantic captivity. It is the biblical text heard most often used at weddings because it is (incorrectly) understood as praising the value of romantic, human love. What gets effectively ignored in such a reading is that Paul was writing to the Corinthian church, a faith community that was having a very difficult time indeed staying together (in this sense perhaps its wedding use may be inspired after all). Paul's aim is to point out that love offers freedom from the competitive "spiritual gift" pursuits that have been ripping the Corinthian church apart. Without love it really doesn't matter what kind of budget, building, or mission strategy a congregation might have. We may pursue different forms of spirituality, aspire to proper doctrine or be social justice zealots. None of this is important if, along the way, we forget about loving our sisters and brothers. The final element in Paul's hymn is the assurance that the patient, kind love that he describes

will not end. Love will remain, because God's love does not falter nor fail. We are ultimately drawn into that love and remade by it so that we become lovers ourselves.

◆ **Thank you...** ◆

Thank you to coffee hosts this month *Barb and Keith Mann*

◆ **Celebrating our stained glass windows in Worship** ◆

2019 marks the 90th anniversary of the completion of our beautiful sanctuary designed by renowned Scottish architect John Gibb Morton, who used the ruin of Melrose Abbey as his creative inspiration – hence our church name. In honour of the anniversary, and in anticipation of our forthcoming celebration weekend in late March, elements of worship on each of the forthcoming Sundays will feature themes from one of the glorious stained glass windows that adorn the sanctuary walls. We begin this week with the Creation window of the South Transept.

◆ **Acoustic Blend Cafe – February 2** ◆

Join us to hear Joss & Em: Jocelyn Russell and Emily Kemp are two very versatile performers playing sultry covers and originals. Songs in the styles of rock, jazz, pop, folk and blues, with some originals in the mix. Their music is vocal-driven, full of rich, sultry harmonies that create a down-to-earth feel of true feminine beauty. We had Emily as a feature performer in April of 2012 and we are excited to have her back again with Jocelyn Russell. Advance Tickets available online for \$14 or buy at the door: \$18 or Two for \$35.

◆ **Melrose Annual General Meeting** ◆

The Melrose Annual General Meeting is February 10th directly following the service. 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.

◆ **Motion for Annual Meeting on February 10, 2019** ◆

The Melrose Board recommends that the following motion be considered at the upcoming Annual Meeting:

That the congregation approve the withdrawal of up to \$40,000 from the capital of the Sustaining Fund in order to meet the needs of the operating budget for 2019.

◆ **PAR Donations** ◆

If you are not already making monthly donations to Melrose through Pre-Authorized Remittance, please consider contributing through PAR as a convenient means of providing financial support. If you are already contributing through PAR, please give thought to increasing your contributions for 2019. To join PAR, or to change your contributions through PAR, please contact Michelle in the Melrose office.

WIT - Women In Touch potluck dinner

Wednesday February 13th at 6:30 pm

in the Melrose church parlour

Our guest this evening is

Susan Ewert

Artist & Painter

Fundraising opportunity \$\$

towards repair of the Stain Glass windows

&

the chance to go home with a sample of Susan's art

◆ **Upcoming World Day of Prayer Service** ◆

Friday evening, March 1st @ 7:30pm. Melrose will be hosting World Day of Prayer, a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women joined together to observe a common day of prayer.

This year, the writing country is Slovenia: "Come - Everything is Ready".

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – January 28

MONTHLY FIRE DRILL	10:00 a.m.	Entire Building
Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
Quilting	12:30 p.m.	Parlour
LeapYear Education	5:30 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
Brownies and Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Norman Slater Room

Tuesday - January 29

Martial Arts Class	6:00 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Ancaster U12 Soccer	6:30 p.m.	Gym
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium, Sanctuary
Locke Street B.I.A.	7:00 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Pick up Basketball	7:45 p.m.	Gym

Wednesday - January 30

Duet Club	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Sportball Hamilton	10:00 a.m.	Gym
Siva Yoga	10:30 a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Pilates	6:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
West Hamilton U12 Soccer	7:00 p.m.	Gym

Thursday - January 31

Parent Child Mother Goose Class	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Melrose Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Chapel
Carpet Bowling	12:30 p.m.	Bowling Alley
RSDCS Dancing Class	1:30 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 – February 1

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Saturday - February 2

Bach Elgar Rehearsal	10:00 a.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen
Acoustic Blend Cafe	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Kitchen, Parlour

Sunday – February 3

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