

# ◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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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, March 15, 2020 ◆  
Third Sunday in Lent

**MELROSE UNITED CHURCH**

◆ SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020 ◆

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT -

\* OPENING HYMN - *Amazing Grace*

VU 266

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: It only takes a spark to kindle an immense fire. Then it depends how it is used - it has the power to heat or destroy.

**All: Unlike the light of Jesus Christ, it always builds up, lights our way and warms our hearts.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Have you ever seen those signs on the highway:

“Last fuel for 65 kilometers”? On highway maps crossing the Sahara, the fuel fill-ups are marked and spaced according to when you’ll be near empty.

**All: And it’s even marked on the map where there is potable water. So, drink deep this morning.**

One: Open yourselves to God and one another, to celebrate, to bulk up and to reach out. There will be watering spots during the week, but there will be dry times too.

**All: Drink deep, to keep us spiritually well-hydrated until we an return again to the filling-up station next week. Let us worship together.**

PRAYER OF APPROACH (said together)

**Holy One, today we stop with Jesus by a well, where he meets a woman whose culture and religion is different from his own. But he doesn't acknowledge their differences when he looks at her – he notices the common things they share. They both seek water. He perceives a person, who, like himself, is thirsty. In that moment, the only thing that matters is her humanity and her need for water, companionship, and a listening ear. As we continue to make our way through these Lenten days and nights, may we be vigilant as we seek to see the humanity in every person we meet and respond with care and kindness. 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)

**Faithful and understanding God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We repent and humbly ask your forgiveness. We recognize that all too often, we fail to live in the way of your love. Help us turn away from our self-centered approach to life – preoccupied by self-indulgence, self-promotion, and self-interest. Turn us instead toward your teaching and show us your purpose for our lives. Support us in this resolve with the power of your Holy Spirit. We ask all this in Jesus' name. 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 – *When I Needed a Neighbour*

VU 600

Reader: Joanne Hannaford

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 95

VU 814

WISDOM OF ISRAEL – Exodus 17: 1-7

One: The Word of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION: "Short Term Memory!"

THE GOSPEL – John 4: 5-42

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

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

REFLECTION – "A Nobody that Jesus Acknowledges!"

ANTHEM – Like As the Heart Desireth the Waterbrooks  
H. Howells

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERING

- ★ OFFERING HYMN – *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* VU 541  
*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.*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**Gracious God, as we approach the well, we are given the water of life. As we approach the well, we give our gifts that we have to share, so that others may never thirst. We come to the well, asking your blessings on these gifts. We come to the well, to share in the gifts of love and living water. 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 – *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* VU 651

### COMMISSIONING

### BENEDICTION

**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, rest upon us from above.*

### 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 Fourth Sunday in Lent. The month of March is moving right along. We are longing for sunshine and warmth and the final vestiges of the dirty snow to retreat. We had one of our most beautiful winter days a couple of weeks ago when the trees were laden with pristine white. What a beautiful world God has created for our enjoyment.

I hope you are able to take this time leading up to Easter to pause for a moment and reflect on the bounty and variety of sensory experiences that each of us have in plain sight everyday filling our lives with joy.

This Sunday's Old Testament Scripture explores the succession of King Saul. Samuel, God's Prophet is asked to find a replacement and travels to the house of Jesse, father of 8 sons. Each in turn, from the oldest to the youngest is presented to God as a possibility for anointment, but God rejects all of the first 7. It is the youngest son, David who receives God's

favour. God assures us that it is not worldly standards of outward appearances that he seeks, rather, God looks into the sincerity of the heart.

The Gospel lesson is a long passage of 41 verses in the Book of John. It explores the belief in the concept of sin being passed down and punished from generation to generation. Jesus assures his listeners and readers that neither the man who was born blind, nor his parents, had sinned resulting in his blindness. Ensuing conversation with the Pharisees led to Jesus speaking about spiritual blindness as opposed to physical blindness. For those of us who enjoy the gift of sight, there are many times when our eyes are opened and we see things with a new light.

◆ **Thank you...** ◆



Thank you to coffee hosts today Barb and Keith Mann

◆ **Newsletter - April Edition** ◆

The office is going to test producing a monthly newsletter for distribution in print and electronic forms. If you would like an event or news item shared with the congregation for April please send it to the church office by email by March 22. Please include for newsletter in the subject line. If you are sharing news please ensure that all parties involved are comfortable with the news being shared in both print and electronic form. Thanks!

◆ **Maundy Thursday Service** ◆

We will be holding a Maundy Thursday short communion service and pot luck in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 9.

We will commemorate The Last Supper when Jesus sat at table with his disciples. Individual small bread rolls and wine/juice will be provided for everyone and we will simultaneously bless and break the bread together as part of our communion rite and similarly enjoy our own wine/juice as part of the ritual. Then we will observe the foot washing

ceremony with shoes left on and a cloth. The liturgy will be followed by a Pot Luck Supper. Please come and enjoy this time of shared fellowship in the manner of disciples of Christ.

◆ **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.

◆ **Eco Locke - Low Waste Shopping** ◆

A special event at with Lynda Lukasik, ED of Environment Hamilton. March 28 @ 7pm - St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall. Free event, please bring your own mug.

◆ **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 16

MONTHLY FIRE DRILL	10:00 a.m.	Entire Building
Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Alley
Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium

### Tuesday - March 17

<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 18

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

### Thursday - March 19

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 20

Executive Meeting: WrapAround	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Dress Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

### Saturday - March 21

Mindful Communication Retreat	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Concert	7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary

### Sunday - March 22

<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>
<b>Confirmation Class</b>	<b>T.B.D.</b>	<b>T.B.D.</b>
Tom Schilling: Master Class	7:00 p.m.	Chapel

