

◆ **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 ◆



◆ **World Day of Prayer 2019** *Slovenia* ◆

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019 ◆

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

PREPARED BY THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER COMMITTEE

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

◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE

GREETING:

One: *Dober večer!* (Doh-ber veh-cher) (Good evening!)

God, in God's goodness, endowed Slovenia with natural beauty: from the Pannonian Plains, to hills, to green forests and high mountains, from the mysterious Karst underworld to the coast of the Adriatic Sea.

Slovenians share their borders with Italy to the west, Austria to the north,

Hungary to the northeast and Croatia to the south.

The first Slovenian World Day of Prayer service was held in Rogaska Slatina in 2000.

Today the World Day of Prayer is celebrated in six locations in Slovenia involving around 500 persons.

All: Come, Let us praise God together.

* HYMN – *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

VU 232

CALL TO PRAYER

One: God of history, for eleven centuries people in Slovenia have known you. As Christians, they have affirmed your love,

so to you be the glory, honour, and praise.

All: We praise you when we hear the sound of waterfalls or sea waves, when we are nourished by our fruitful vineyards and fields, or when we are awed by green forests and snow-capped peaks.

One: Jesus Christ, child of God, whose word works wonders among us, you inspire us to loving action.

All: We praise you in the villages and cities with the music of organ, accordion, guitar and zither, and in natural places where birds sing and wild game calls.

One: O Holy Spirit, with your gifts you bring us together in unity despite our differences.

All: We thank you for the relationships which you build in us and among us; in your hands we place the future of young people, the hopes of families and the acceptance of our elders.

One: Welcoming God, in your love you have prepared a table for all and you inspire us, in turn, to open our hearts to all.

All: We praise and thank you and proclaim the Kingdom of Love in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

★ PSALM 42

VU 766

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: And now, together let us make our confession before God:

**All: Holy God, in earth, sea and sky,
you are there; in everything we touch;
in everyone we meet; your presence is 'round us,
and we give you thanks.
You we have not touched, but trampled, in creation;
You we have not met, but missed, in one another;
You we have not received, but rejected, in the poor.
Forgive us.**

RESPONSE (sung)

MV 67

One: Kyrie eleison,

All: Kyrie eleison,

One: Christe eleison,

All: Christe eleison,

One: Kyrie eleison,

All: Kyrie eleison.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God's love is sure and steadfast,
always providing a way out,
a way through,
a way back to God.

**All: With gratitude, in faith,
we will walk the way of Christ. Amen.**

LISTENING TO WOMEN'S VOICES FROM SLOVENIA:

The First Voice: "Marjeta"

One: Merciful God, forgive us when we silence ourselves in face of injustices. Open up our hearts to love, that love may call to one and all.

Sung Response:

VU 948

*O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:
when I call answer me.*

*O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.*

The Second Voice: "Mojca"

One: We give thanks for women who overcome barriers
and raise their children in the midst of adversity.

Sung Response: *“O God, hear my prayer ...”*

The Third Voice: “Marija”

One: We recognize that in many places aging parents and elderly people are not receiving the care and attention they deserve.

Sung Response: *“O God, hear my prayer ...”*

The Fourth Voice: “Ema”

One: God, open our hearts. Make us more compassionate and understanding.

Sung Response: *“O God, hear my prayer ...”*

The Fifth Voice: “Natasha”

One: Help us, God, to be respectful and open-minded to embrace ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and asylum seekers – knowing that your banquet includes all.

Sung Response: *“O God, hear my prayer ...”*

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Spirit of life, God of love,
open our hearts and enter in,
that hearing your word of love,
we may become your love for others. Amen.

THE GOSPEL – Luke 14: 15-24

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ

SONG – I Cannot Come to the Banquet

Sr. M. T. Winter

Refrain:

I cannot come ...

I cannot come to the banquet,
Don't trouble me now,
I have married a wife,
I have bought me a cow,
I have fields and commitments,
That cost a pretty sum,
Pray hold me excused
I cannot come.

*A certain man held a feast
On his fine estate in town.
He laid a festive table,
He wore a wedding gown,
He sent out invitations
To his neighbours far and wide,
But when the meal was ready
Each of them replied: Refrain*

*The master rose up in anger
Called his servants by name, said
Go into town, fetch the blind and the lame
Fetch the peasant and the pauper
For this I have willed:
My banquet must be crowded,
And my table must be filled. Refrain*

*When all the poor had assembled
There was still room to spare,
So the master demanded:
Go search everywhere.*

*Search the highways and the by ways,
And tell them to come in
My table must be filled
Before the banquet can begin. Refrain*

*Now God has written a lesson
For the rest of mankind:
If we are slow in responding
God may leave us behind.
God's preparing a banquet
For that great and glorious day,
When the Lord and Master calls us,
be certain not to say: Refrain*

HOMILY: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"

ANTHEM - Come Down, O Love Divine

W. H. Harris

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (see coloured insert)

OFFERING

* 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 together)

Gracious and loving God,
receive our gifts of self and substance.
They have belonged to you
since our very beginning.
We give them freely, joyfully, prayerfully.
With them we praise you.
With them we celebrate the great power
that is love –
a love that abides always,
a love that radically transforms,
a love that makes us whole. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS (concluding with the Prayer of Jesus)

All: 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, the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN – *The Day Thou Gavest*

VU 438

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE - God Be with You till We Meet Again

VU 423

*God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.*

POSTLUDE