

◆ 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, September 30, 2018** ◆
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Creation IV

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH
◆ **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018** ◆
NINETEETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CREATION IV

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

◆ **GATHERING** ◆

PRELUDE – Prelude on a Chorale by Thomas Tallis W.T. Best

INTROIT – Grant, O Lord J. Booth

★ OPENING HYMN – *God Who Spread the Boundless Prairie* MV 53

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The Christ candle is lit.

We are blessed to be in the presence of Christ's Spirit.

**All: For the light of Christ within us and around us,
we give God thanks!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is faithful, even in the toughest of times.

All: God walks with us, even in times of danger or strife.

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth!

**All: Blessed be the Holy One, who sets us free!
Together, let us worship God!**

OPENING PRAYER (said by all)

**Saving God,
you are a God who has made it a habit**

to stick with us through thick and thin.
Thank you for calling us your own
even in those moments
when we haven't been the best investment.
Help us, in our worship of you this day,
to be turned in a direction that pleases you.
Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN – *Each Blade of Grass*

MV 37

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

SOLO – Domine Deus
Allana Stevenson, soprano

A. Vivaldi

Reader: Paul Millson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 124

VU 848 (Refrain 2)

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL – Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10, 9: 20-22

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL – Mark 9: 38-50

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

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN – *O Day of God, Draw Nigh*

VU 688

SERMON: "Where in the World is God?"

ANTHEM - Creating God

D. Hurd

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

* OFFERTORY HYMN - *Praise to God*

VU 243 Verse 2

*Thanks to God, thanks to God,
for the gift of friends in Christ,
for the church, our house of faith,
for the gift of wondrous love,
for the gift of endless grace.
Thanks to God, thanks to God,
now and for evermore.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

You lift us up;

now let us lift up others.

**These gifts are to encourage and empower,
to raise up issues and advance solutions.**

**May lives be lifted up and renewed through them,
in this community and beyond,
in Christ's name. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

(concluding with the prayer of Jesus)

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.

★ CLOSING HYMN – *O God of Every Nation*

VU 677

CHORAL BLESSING –
*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!*

VU 423 Vs. 1

POSTLUDE – Epistemology

C. Palmer

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.

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Next Sunday will have a double agenda as we celebrate World Wide Communion and Thanksgiving on the same day. This also marks the final Sunday in our celebration of the Season of Creation (though at Melrose we've extended it a little by scheduling our pet blessing service for October 14th!). The focus text will be Joel 2: 21-27 which speaks of the innate goodness of the earth and its ability to recover. Whenever the land is devastated by drought or insects, says Joel, the animals suffer along with the people. But with God there is always promise. The animals need not fear because in time the pastures will turn green again, trees will bear fruit and there will be food enough for all to eat. Such a hopeful text provides a good foundation for our gratitude both for the goodness of the bread we eat day by day and for the grace of the bread we receive in Holy Communion - otherwise called "The Eucharist" or "Thanksgiving."

◆ Pet Blessing Service ◆

On **Sunday October 14**, Melrose will be celebrating the love of animals with a Blessing of Pets during our morning worship. You are invited to bring your house pet to the service. Dogs should be on a leash; other pets should be in a crate or cage. If your pet is very excitable, or not portable (such as a goldfish), please consider bringing a photo! Children who don't have a pet are invited to bring a favourite stuffed animal instead.

◆ Wesley Urban Ministries Dinner ◆

Melrose's hosting date is TODAY! If you can volunteer TODAY please let Gwyn X. know. **Eight** volunteers are needed to make the dinner a success. Last year we did NOT have enough folk to prepare and serve dinner. Please consider volunteering 3 hours of your time from 2pm-5pm .

◆ **Casavant Organ** ◆

The organ is in need of rather urgent and costly repair to its electronic system. The extent of the problem is significant, with only one of three keyboards currently working. The existing electronics were installed in the 1970s, and have lasted until very recently, however there is a risk currently of the entire instrument failing to work without notice.

We have obtained a quote of ~ \$24 000 to make the necessary repairs, which should fix the problem and return it to optimal condition. Fortunately, there are funds from which we can draw to pay for these repairs without adding to our deficit and withdrawing from the General Sustaining Fund. We are proposing to draw the bulk of the needed funds, \$18000, from the Organ Sustaining Fund, with the remainder coming from Memorial Funds. The choir has also committed to fundraising events to contribute to replenishing, at least in part, these funds. The terms of the Organ Sustaining Fund are that multiple approvals are required to authorize its use. The necessary approvals have been obtained from the Worship Committee and Official Board. In addition, a majority vote of the congregation is also required. Therefore, a congregational meeting will be held immediately following the service on **Sunday, October 14th**, where the following motion will be presented:

That the congregation approve the withdrawal of \$18 000 from the Organ Sustaining Fund to partially cover the work to make needed repairs to the electronic components of the Melrose Organ.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Evans
Chair, Official Board

◆ **Financial Update** ◆

We are now two-thirds of the way through the year, and I want to provide an update. Through the first eight months, Melrose expenditures have exceeded revenues by about \$58,000. The Trustees have provided \$43,000 from their income and capital to cover this shortfall. Our budget for the entire year anticipated that a total of \$67,000 will be received from the Trustees in order to cover our deficit, but it appears that our deficit is likely to exceed this amount.

The care of an old building has continued to be costly. The boilers and air conditioning have both needed expensive repairs, while leaky roofs and a collapsed flight of stairs added unexpected costs. I am happy to report that the costs of washroom renovations were entirely covered by funds raised and donated.

Donations during the eight months have been 55 percent of the budget target for the year. There is usually an increase in donations during the final months of the year, and hopefully we will be able to provide additional financial support over the remainder of the year. Rental and leasing income has been 64 percent of the year's budget target.

As we enter autumn and the Christmas season, please consider whether you are able to provide additional support to Melrose.
Ralph Moulton

WIT - Women In Touch potluck dinner

Wednesday October 10th at 6:30 pm

in the Melrose church parlour

Our guest this evening is

Andrea Kelly

"Project Harvest Guatemala"

Thank you to coffee hosts this month *Denise and Phil Farrauto*



UPCOMING DATES :

Wesley Dinner Hosting
Sept. 30

Prayer Shawl Ministry
9:30am in the parlour
Oct 27, Nov. 24

WIT Potluck
6:30pm in the parlour
Oct 10, Dec. 12

Acoustic Blend Cafe
7:00pm in the auditorium
Oct. 13, Nov. 13

Mistletoe Bazaar
9:30am-2pm
Nov. 17

MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – October 1

Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
LeapYear Education	5:30 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
Brownies and Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Norman Slater Room

Tuesday - October 2

Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:00 p.m.	Parlour

Wednesday - October 3

Duet Club of Hamilton Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
HPL Storytime	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Sportball Hamilton Classes	10:00 a.m.	Gym
Siva Yoga	10:30 a.m.	Norman Slater Room
Duet Club Executive Meeting	11:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Mindful Communication	5:15 p.m.	Parlour
Resource Management Committee Meeting	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

Thursday - October 4

Parent Child Mother Goose	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
RSDCS Dancing Class	1:30 p.m.	Norman Slater Room
Private Class	6:45 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 – October 5

Bookmobile: HPL	10:00 a.m.	Parking Lot
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Saturday - October 6

Private Event	4:00 p.m.	Parlour, Kitchen
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Sunday – October 7 - Happy Thanksgiving!!

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