



Life and Work At Melrose

June 07, 2020

◆ 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.

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Today is known as Proper 6, the second Sunday after Pentecost. It is the day when we celebrate our Church Picnic. Unfortunately, we are unable to be together outdoors at the Park, however, we are going to provide a service oriented towards children/youth. Music and readings will be done by our youth group.

The Exodus reading illustrates God's special favour on the Israelites, bringing them safely out of Egypt, "bearing them on eagle's wings" to the safety of the wilderness. Modern day scholars have difficulty with this passage inferring that God has chosen a particular group to favour. Selection of one over another does not sit well with us.

"You have seen what I did," God says, if you keep my commandments and instructions, I will make you my treasured possessions. The people agree, but often fail to live up to their intentions. Their responsibilities include participating in proper worship, keeping spiritually fit and joining in service to humanity. Today, our responsibility is to meet the needs of the people around us. We are to cast a light on the vulnerable and find ways to assist them.

The Psalm 100 is a song of celebration that we sing with bounce and vigour. Make a joyful noise all the earth. Worship your God with gladness. One might wonder how we can lift our voices in joyful song when we are in the midst of misery. In spite of depression, illness, hunger, poverty, war, violence, we are to look death in the eye and make a joyful noise of



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thanksgiving because God is still God, still in charge, still with the intention of moving towards harmony and peace.

The Gospel of Matthew is a long discourse in Matthew 9:35 to 10:23. We will hear only a portion of it read. Jesus is giving instructions to his disciples as he is sending them out to greet the people.

It contains some of the wisdom sayings “The harvest is plenty, but the labourers are few” “Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” “If anyone will not listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave the house or town.” “See, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” “You will be hated because of my name. But the one who endures in the end will be saved.”

There is a greater need for shepherds to lead than those available and Jesus tells them that they need to move on where they are welcomed. What is our response to human need? Will it be compassionate and faithful action? Our mission is the proclamation of the nearness of the kingdom of heaven to all, regardless of whether they look or talk like us. This ministry is free to all who are part of the “lost sheep” the vulnerable, the forgotten and ignored and the outcast.

◆ Donations ◆

The Melrose staff team (and volunteer base) continues to do work behind the scenes even though we cannot use the building to worship together. If you are looking to support the ongoing work of the church you can:

1. Sign up for P.A.R. (preauthorized remittance) through the office.
2. Make a one time or ongoing donation through CanadaHelps.Org
3. Send a donation through e-transfer to donations@melroseunited.ca.