

◆ 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 ◆

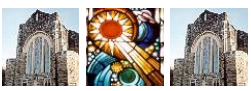
Next week we will look at Acts 2:42-47, the early days of the church. Christianity caught on like wildfire and spread far and wide. Vast numbers of converts were brought in daily. People were learning how to live a life devoted to following Jesus. Early church meetings were held in peoples' homes. The newness and excitement was building. Scholars today draw analogies to the social and spiritual aspects of the beginning of the American Revolution and the Civil Rights Movement.

The Apostles taught the fledgling church four things: Study and unwrapping of the Scriptures, Fellowship, Breaking Bread, and Devotion to Prayer. The tradition of sharing with others equally was a central part of Jesus' teachings.

This early community was not without its difficulties. Differences in leadership and interpretation and the overlap with their Jewish roots created many instances of strife. Yet, they found a way to incorporate their new-found awareness of the teachings of Jesus into their midst.

The Gospel of John - (John 10:1-10) picks up on the theme of the attentive, good Shepherd whose sheep know his voice.

Those who follow his voice will be identified as God's own. John has chosen to present Jesus as existing with God before time. - the Word,



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whereas the other four gospels, known as synoptic gospels proclaim Jesus as the Messiah at the end of his ministry.

The imagery of the shepherd for the church is one of protection, intimate knowledge, willingness to lay down his life, and the gate for entry into the kingdom of God. Some of our struggles with this passage have to do with the interpretation of the exclusivity implied by Jesus as the sole gateway into God's kingdom. It is a theological issue that needs to be addressed at another time.

◆ Donations - Now accepting E-transfers ◆

Our treasurer, Ralph, set up the ability for E-transfer donations over the past couple weeks.

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 [Canada Helps.Org](https://CanadaHelps.Org)
3. Send a donation through e-transfer to donations@melroseunited.ca.

All donations are tax receiptable. The office team or treasurer will notify you that your donation has been received and can answer any questions about tax receipts or use of your donation.