

## Life and Work At Melrose May 17, 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.

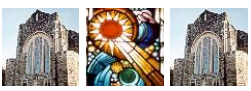
### ◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Next week, we celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It occurs fifty days after Easter Sunday. Jewish people were already gathering in Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks (an annual agricultural celebration) when the breath, wind and power of the Holy Spirit were unleashed on the faithful followers of Jesus who were gathered together.

While I have chosen the Psalm and Acts of the Apostle on which to base my reflections, it is worth noting that the Old Testament Scripture of Numbers 11:24-30 for today's reading also speaks about a transfer of power. Moses gathered seventy elders to tell about the words of the Lord. God came down in a cloud and took some of the Spirit that was in Moses and spread it out into the seventy. But God chose also to anoint two others who remained in the encampment and were not with the seventy. As a result, divisions occurred over authority of leadership.

Psalm 104 is known as a creation hymn. The Psalmist speaks of the diversity and beauty of God's creation, and the wonders of its interconnections. The Spirit of God is in everything that God has created. The only appropriate response is awe and wonder.

God's divine provision makes all things work together for the well-being of all and was never intended for the exclusive privilege of a select few. "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;" is the recognition that God, in wisdom, is in control.



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The Acts reading commemorates the celebration of the official beginning of the church. As Peter is standing speaking to a large crowd gathered together, a mighty roar encompasses the crowd and the group are filled with the breath and power of the Holy Spirit. With this new gift, they are able to speak in a language that is common to them all, in spite of differing languages amongst them. This became known as speaking in tongues and still happens today in certain charismatic circles.

Some of the attendees found this to be disruptive, believing that those who were filled with the Holy Spirit were drunk. Speaking in tongues is still not understood today as being part of a gift of the Spirit. However, the ultimate outcome of that extraordinary event was to see the Word of God spread throughout the world in the life and teachings of the Son, Jesus Christ. In the year 2020, we still celebrate this as the birthday of the church.

-Rev. Sonia Ireson

### ◆ 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](mailto: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.



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