

Life and Work At Melrose May 3, 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.

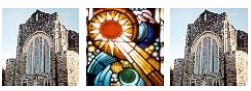
◆ Worship Next Week ◆

Next week is Mother's Day, celebrated as Christian Family Sunday in our churches. As we are still under isolation orders, many family members are unable to celebrate this day with each other. It is an especially difficult time for those who are confined to hospitals, nursing and retirement homes and unable to have visitors. We pray for God's blessings on each of you and your loved ones during this challenging time.

This week we will be talking about Stephen, the first Christian martyr, who was stoned for speaking out about his beliefs and preaching the gospel. Obviously, there is a major rift with the growing Christian community. Up to this point, the Christians had still been part of the Jewish synagogues, but animosity is growing and persecution is in full swing as they begin to see the radical divergence of the two religions.

These people were neighbours and friends. One day they held common beliefs and shared their stories but the historical fate of Jesus had severed those ties and caused a major rift. We are first introduced to Paul, then known as Saul, in this scene in his former role as an ardent persecutor. He will come to have a much different role as we follow the trail of the new church.

Stephen remains resolute in the face of impending death, prays for his persecutors with a holy determination. Christians begin to scatter but the holy will of God through the Holy Spirit will not be stopped and the movement is propelled out into the world.



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Our second scripture moves to the Gospel of John. Again this is one of the most beloved and familiar scriptures. My earliest memories as a child were memorizing this passage: Let not your heart be troubled, followed by the words of John 3:16 – For God so loved the world....

Instructions are dispersed to the disciples about how to live as Jesus taught when Jesus would not be present to guide them. These are known as Jesus' Farewell speeches to his group of followers who have not understood that he is about to leave them.

You, like I have been present at many funerals when these words have been offered as comfort and encouragement. In my Father's house are many mansions. In these promises, Jesus reveals an intimacy shared with his Father that is opened up to all who make the journey in His name. "I and the Father are one." As you have seen me, you also have seen the Father. John's consistent message drives home that Jesus was with God from the beginning of creation as the Word; Jesus has incarnated in the role of the Son for His earthly mission; and Jesus is returning to the Father where he will enter back into the Godhead in glory. Another glimpse of the mystical trinity of God.

◆ 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.



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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.

the (almost) stay home and donate
organized by your neighbours at Melrose United Church

FOOD DRIVE



DONATE

**HELP DONATE TO THOSE IN HUNGER!
DROP OFF YOUR DONATION AT ONE OF THE
LOCATIONS YOU CAN WALK TO BELOW:**

Drop off at 86 Little John Road (Dundas), 20 Chedoke Ave, 175
Aberdeen Ave, 25 Pine Street or 16 Undermount Ave

MAY 1-7 | Boxes will be clearly marked
outside of each house

MOST NEEDED ITEMS INCLUDE:
pasta, lentils, rice, soup, chickpeas, tuna, salmon, peanut
butter, oatmeal, potatoes, carrots,
canned tomatoes and sauces and hygiene items.