

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

86 Homewood Avenue ◆ Hamilton, Ontario ◆ L8P 2M4

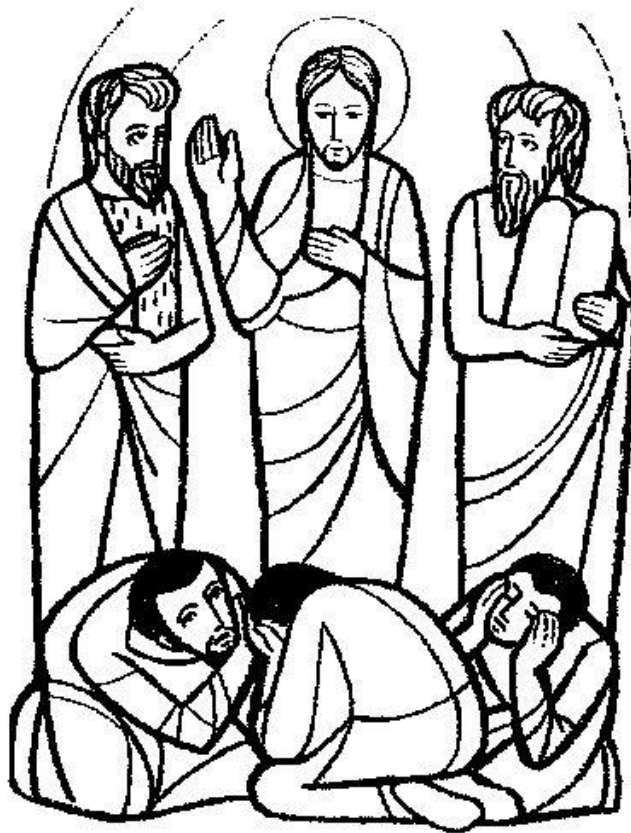
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Minister:

The Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner

Music Director:

Alexander Cann

Child & Youth Coordinator:

Michelle Millson

Custodian:

Lee Stallard

Office Administrator:

Pamela Kovacek

◆ 26 February, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Transfiguration Sunday

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, February 26, 2017 ◆

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

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

◆ All are welcome for coffee and conversation in the parlour after worship ◆

◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE

INTROIT – *Body, Mind, and Spirit, (MV 153, v. 4)*

M. Motum

* OPENING HYMN – *How Good, Lord, to be Here*

VU 103

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ breaks in upon our darkness.

All: How good, Lord, to be here!

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As God called to Moses from the mountain,

All: we are called to be God's people.

One: As Jesus called the disciples to climb with him
to the peak of another mountain,

All: we are called to follow wherever he leads.

One: As the disciples stood in awe at the sound of God's voice,

All: we are called to worship in wonder and praise.

OPENING PRAYER

**All: Holy God, present in our midst
yet beyond all comprehension,
by your light, we see light;
by your healing, we are made whole;
by your mercy, we know your greatness.**

Turn your gaze upon our weakness
and show us the way of your love
that we may live with unveiled faces,
through Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN – *Small Things Count*

VU 361

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Keith Mann

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 2

VU 725

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 24:12-18

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 17; 1-9

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN – *You, Lord, Are Both, Lamb and Shepherd*

VU 210

SERMON – “Getting the Last Laugh”

ANTHEM – *The Key*

A. Piccolo

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

- * OFFERING HYMN— *Called by Earth and Sky* MV 135
*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high,
this is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: God of mountaintops and valleys,
whether our vision of you is clouded or clear,
we faithfully add our gifts
to those being given all around us.
Bless these offerings that they may be transfigured
into your presence in the world. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

concluding with a paraphrase of the Prayer of Jesus, VU 916:

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice by followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

★ CLOSING HYMN – *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

VU 104

★ COMISSIONING AND BLESSING

★ CHORAL RESPONSE – *Go Forth with Blessing*

*Go forth with blessing, go forth with peace:
Peace and joy be with you. Amen, amen.*

POSTLUDE

◆ Melrose Events ◆

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday -- which makes next Sunday the first Sunday of Lent. We will mark the beginning of this new season of the church year with a celebration of Holy Communion. The Gospel reading (Matthew 4: 1-11) offers us Matthew's version of Jesus' testing during 40 difficult days in the wilderness. The reading from the Hebrew scriptures is the story of the very first temptation -- when Adam and Eve decide to accept the wily serpent's attractive invitation to become "like gods" (Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-13). The story of "The Fall" in the original Hebrew text is in many ways a humourous folk tale that Christianity in its early days loaded not only with a dose of misogyny but with the ultimate heavy theological concept: "Original Sin. Perhaps a Lenten re-reading of the story will help to restore some helpful balance.

◆ Thank You... ◆

...to our February coffee hosts – Cheryl Evans & Patti Varey.



◆ **Our Adult Study** ◆

... of Diana Butler Bass's book *Grounded* begins on **THIS WEEK** on **March 1 at 7 p.m.** at the McMaster Innovation Park. The paperback version of the book is available from the Presbytery Resource Centre at Olivet. Please see Rev. Philip who will arrange to get the book for you.

◆ **Ash Wednesday Service** ◆



This week, **Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.** there will a combined Ash Wednesday service for the Melrose and Central Presbyterian congregations to be held at Central (corner of Charlton and Caroline) and led by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Davidson, the Rev. Dr. Philip Gardner, and the Rev. Franklin Thomas. All are welcome.

◆ **World Day of Prayer** ◆

This year's World Day of Prayer is going to be held **NEXT Friday, March 3 at 7 p.m.** at Erskine Presbyterian Church, 19 Pearl St N, at the corner of Pearl and Morden Streets. The theme, "Am I Being Unfair to You", was written by the WDP of the Philippines.

◆ **It's TIME to...** ◆

...**March Into March!** The Melrose Corner Shoppe can help "Spiff up Your Space", "Re-Stock Your Reading", "Keep Track of Your Time", and "Stash Your Stuff"!

Donations of books, CDs and jewelry are much appreciated.

Thanks to everyone's participation and support, the Corner Shoppe has generated \$316 from January 15 to February 15! Since roof repairs have been fully paid, Shoppe proceeds will be put toward stained glass window repairs. Revenue updates will continue to be posted here.

◆ **Jamming Is Starting Again at Melrose** ◆

If anyone has empty unused 250 ml jam /jelly jars please bring them to church and place in the kitchen! We will reuse them!

◆ **Sunday School special request** ◆

The Sunday School program is in need of a “helper” each Sunday. Our numbers have increased and Michelle needs a second adult/teenage volunteer to help. For a list of Sundays available and to sign up please contact Sandra W. or Gwyn X. No preparation or direct leadership required.

Upcoming Dates ◆

BIBLE STUDY—This group meets on **Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.** in the parlour. The current topic is "Women of the Old Testament" followed by "Women of the New Testament ". You are welcome to drop in and see if this interests you.

◆ **Child and Youth Notes** ◆

Youth Connexion: On **March 4 @ 6:30** it is Melrose’s turn to host! Open to grades 5-8. Plan to join us for a fun evening (a scavenger hunt! Bath bomb making!) of fellowship from youth all over the west-end of Hamilton.

Thursdays are for fun: join us Thursday evening from 6pm-7pm for a fun open hour of gym time here at the church!

◆ **Hello WrapAround Hamilton Supporters** ◆

A request from WrapAround has been received for the following items:

Used vacuum cleaners (3), microwave oven, toaster,
double mattress, phone (landline)

large garbage pail with a lid (safety issue for one family)

If anyone has the item available, if they can call Elske at our WrapAround Hamilton mobile-905-3208373 or office # 905-528-0353

or through our email: elske@shalemnetwork.org or speak to Libby Cook.

Thanks for any help you are able to give us.

◆ **The Prayer Bear Ministry...** ◆

... at Melrose is sponsored through a generous gift in loving memory of Easton Carter Strongman, the infant son of Adam and Jessica Strongman, who died in 2013. If you know of anyone in need of some Prayer Bear cheer, you are invited to take one of the bears from the table near the south (right hand) sanctuary door. Please fill in the Prayer Bear registry book also located on the table so that we have some information about the bear's new home.



MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday – February 27

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
MONTHLY FIRE DRILL	3:00 p.m.	ENTIRE BUILDING
Guides, Brownies	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour, Auditorium

Tuesday – February 28

Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
Locke Street BIA	7:00 p.m.	Chapel
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Aud., SANCTUARY

Wednesday March 1

Duet Club of Hamilton	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Mindfulness Course	5:15 p.m.	Parlour

Thursday – March 2

Early Years: Newborn	9:15 a.m.	Parlour
Early Years: Family	10:30 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Thursdays are for Fun!	6:00 p.m.	Parlour, Gym
English Country Dancing	6:45 p.m.	Auditorium
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Melrose Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.	Chapel

Friday – March 3

McMaster Choir	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
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Saturday - March 4

On Course Education	9:30 a.m.	On Course Rental Area
Youth Connexion	6:30 p.m.	Aud., Parlour, Kitchen

Sunday – March 5

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