

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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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

◆ January 15, 2017 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

The Baptism of Jesus

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, January 15th, 2017 ◆

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

* 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 – *Brightest and the Best of the Sons of the Morning* H. Willan

* OPENING HYMN – *Song of Thankfulness and Praise* VU 101

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The light of Christ has come to us.

All: Let us celebrate God's abiding love!

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning, at creation,
the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

**All: In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth
and humankind.**

One God caused the waters to part so that Israel
could cross from slavery to liberation.

All: God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.

One: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples'
feet in water.

**All: Drinking water from a well,
Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the first person
to recognize that he was the Christ.**

One: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

**All: God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn
in a large baptismal family. Thanks be to God.**

OPENING PRAYER

One: We gather at the river, Earth-maker,
to taste that which gives life.
We come with our friends, Life-giver,
to hear a Word that is true.

**All: We open our hearts, Pain-bearer,
as the One we call Living Water
emerges from the river of your love
to offer the hope of peace. Amen.**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

* HYMN – *I Have Called You by Your Name*

MV 161

Reader: Eric Windhorst

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 29

VU 756

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Isaiah 42: 1-9

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 3: 13-17

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN – *When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized*

VU 100

SERMON – “The Baptism Conundrum”

ANTHEM – *Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep*

P. Ledger

◆ RESPONSE ◆

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

- * OFFERING HYMN – *Worship in the Beauty of Holiness* (Vs 4) HB 33
*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before God, God's glory proclaim
Gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
These are the offerings we lay at God's shrine.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Gracious God, as your Spirit descended upon
Jesus when he came up out of the waters of the Jordan,
so may your Spirit descend upon the
offering of our lives and work,
to be a blessing to the world
as Jesus' life and ministry have been a blessing to us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

One: Sisters and brothers in Christ,
our baptism is the sign and seal
of our cleansing and renewal,
of our being grafted into Christ.
Through baptism we are made citizens of God's realm.
Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption
through the renewal of the promises made at our Baptism.
I ask you, therefore, once again to reject evil,
to profess your faith in Christ Jesus,
and to confess the faith of the church,
the faith in which you were baptized:
Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,

do you turn from the ways of sin
and renounce evil and its power in the world?

All: We do.

One: Do you turn to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord,
trusting in his grace and love?

All: We do.

One: Will you be Christ's faithful disciples,
obeying his Word and showing his love?

All: We will, with God's help.

*(Any who wish are invited to come to the font, to dip their hand in the
water and renew their baptismal blessing)*

* CLOSING HYMN – *In the Darkness Shines the Splendour*

VU 92

* COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE – *May God's Sheltering Wings*

MV 214

*May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.*

POSTLUDE

◆ **Melrose Events** ◆

◆ **Worship Next Week** ◆

One of the themes of the Epiphany season is the call to discipleship: what does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? What kind of behaviour should we manifest in our interactions with one another? In our gospel reading for today (Matt 4: 12-23) Jesus at the beginning of his ministry calls ordinary people out of their ordinary lives to do extraordinary things. In his

relationship with his new disciples, he also models the way in which he hopes we will be with one another: bearing each other's burdens, caring for each other and for the vulnerable, holding onto each other through thick and thin, always with the hope and promise of God's abundant grace. Difficult to live up to? Certainly. Worth it? Absolutely!

◆ **Thank You...** ◆

...to our January coffee hosts – Denise and Phil Farrauto.

◆ **Flapjack Friday** ◆

Plan to join us on **Friday, February 24** at 6:30pm for flapjacks. You bring the toppings – we will have the pancakes. It will be a time of feasting, community, and fun. All are welcome.

◆ **Men's Breakfast** ◆

Happy New Year! It's time for Men's Breakfast again!

Jan 21 : 9:30am; Cost : \$10.00

Come bring in the new year with a great hot breakfast. Full of fellowship and fun! Bring your father, sons, and grandparent!

◆ **Corner Shoppe Updates** ◆

We are open again! Help Needed!

"Jump Into January" at The Melrose Corner Shoppe! Come on in and see what 'New Treasures' await You & Your Home! All proceeds to the Melrose Roof Repair Fund. The Shoppe is also currently accepting donations of books.

The Melrose Corner Shoppe is open for business and needs helpers! Could you pop in once a week for an hour to re-stock shelves and tidy up displays? (Day & Time are both flexible.) If so, please speak to Claire or Suzanne or leave a message at the church office. Two or three helpers would minimize the time requirement even more. All Shoppe proceeds will go to Melrose roof repairs and your support is greatly appreciated.

◆ **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.

◆ **Child and Youth Notes** ◆

Sunday School: Every Sunday we learn about the bible, play games and have fun! Children of all ages welcome. The fun begins in the church service and the children are led out to a time just for them about halfway through. Nursery facilities are available.

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

◆ **Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!** ◆

Lake Avenue School would like to thank the congregation of Melrose United and St. Andrew’s United for their generous donations of hats, mittens and scarves. They are always needed and very much appreciated!

◆ **Melrose Annual General Meeting** ◆

It’s that time of year again! The meeting will be held after worship on **Sunday, February 5**. Please bring your own lunches.

Thank you to committee members who have submitted your reports to the Melrose office!

◆ **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.



◆**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.

<u>MELROSE WEEKLY CALENDAR</u>		
Monday – January 16		
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Brownies & Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour
Wrap Around Meeting	7:15 p.m.	Chapel
Tuesday – January 17		
Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Chapel
Wednesday – January 18		
Duet Club of Hamilton	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Mindfulness Course	5:15 p.m.	Parlour
Property Committee	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
Thursday – January 19		
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 – January 20		
Guides Sleepover	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Aud., Kitchen
Saturday – January 21		
Guides Sleepover	Ends 10:30 a.m.	Gym, Aud., Kitchen
Sunday – January 22		
Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Worship Mtg.	11:30 a.m.	Parlour