

◆ 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

◆ 29 January, 201 – 10:30 a.m. ◆

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, January 29, 2017 ◆

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

* 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 Best Sons of the Morning*

H. Willan

* OPENING HYMN – *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

VU 339

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: It is in the glow of the Christ that we gather.

All: It is in the glow of the Christ that we find home.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, who do you come to worship?

All: We come to worship the one true God.

One: How will you worship?

**All: Not with words alone, but by living lives
of justice and love.**

One: Come, you who belong to God.

Come, you who are foolish in the eyes of the world.

**All: Come and abide in God's tent and in God's heart,
now and forever.**

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 27)

Loving God,

we come this morning

seeking to abide in your presence.

Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom,
that we may know how to live as your people.
Open our hearts to your spirit of truth,
that we may love all your people with a love
that speaks of justice, kindness,
and radical grace.
May this time of worship
be authentic and pleasing to you. Amen.

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* HYMN – *What Does the Lord Require of You*

VU 701

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

Reader: Emily Warren

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 15

VU 736

THE WISDOM OF ISRAEL: Micah 6:1-8

One: The Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 1-12

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN – *I Am the Dream*

MV 106

SERMON – “Which Road?”

◆ **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 AND PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

All: O God,
you bless us in so many areas of our lives —
in places we often fail to recognize as blessing.
Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand
the depth of your love and blessing.
Let the simple gifts of our lives
be a sign of our unending gratitude
for your undying love.

One: May God's grace be upon these shawls ...
warming, comforting, healing, and enfolding.
May these mantles be safe haven ...
a sacred place of security and well being ...
sustaining and embracing in times of illness, loneliness, or sorrow.
May each one who receives a shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy,
graced with peace, and wrapped in love.

**All: May each know that Melrose holds them in prayer and love,
and that God's grace surrounds them always.
In the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen**

PRAYERS 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 – *Be Thou My Vision*

VU 642

* 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 ◆

Next Sunday is the fifth Sunday of Epiphany but also, following worship, our Melrose Annual General Meeting. Ron Klusmeier's hymn "Worship the Lord" (VU 401) reminds us that the real meaning of the word "liturgy" is "*the work of the people*" and so, as the hymn's chorus puts it: "worship and work must be one!" Recognizing this important connection, our service and our meeting time be seamless (the benediction, for example, will be pronounced at the end of the meeting time rather than at its usual position at the end of the liturgy). Scripture texts for this week will include Matthew 5: 13-20. Like the Beatitudes, we are often tempted to hear Jesus' words as requirement rather than blessing, as command rather than commissioning. But take note: Jesus doesn't say, "If you want to become salt and light, do this...." Or, "before I'll call you salt and light, I'll need to see this from you...." Rather, he says both simply and directly, "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." It is sheer blessing, commendation, affirmation, and commissioning -- appropriate themes for an AGM Sunday!

◆ Melrose Annual Reports Are Ready for Pick-up ◆

Annual Reports are ready for pick-up at coffee hour today – ONE per family, please. Don't forget to sign the sheet when taking your Annual Report, in order to help us keep track of who still needs to get one.

Melrose Annual General Meeting ◆

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

The following motion will be considered at the Annual General meeting on February 5th:

MOTION: That the congregation approve the withdrawal of up to \$50,000 from the capital of the Sustaining Fund to meet the needs of the 2017 operating budget.

◆ **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.

◆ **News from the Elders** ◆

Anne Gilmore was speaking with Loretta Stockton recently and shared how pleased she was to receive the Christmas card from the Church that Doreen initiated. Loretta also shared that she thanked Doreen as well. Loretta said she had great fun reading the signatures and knowing who they belonged to. She was very pleased to be remembered.

◆ **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.

◆ **Corner Shoppe Updates** ◆

The Melrose Corner Shoppe continues to offer new stock on a weekly basis, as well as having new themes each month. Come on in and see what New Treasures await you and your home! Donations are always appreciated; CDs, Books and Jewellery are currently needed.

Happy News!

This is a reminder that God works in mysterious and unexpected ways to inspire faith...Further to the announcement of the missing "Shoppe Funds", a very generous anonymous donation was made to cover the total amount and then some!! We all extend a huge, "Thank-you" to the Good Samaritan amongst us!

Help Needed!

If you are at the church regularly for an existing commitment and you could spare 20 minutes extra to stock shelves before you leave please contact Claire at 905-525-1888 or leave your name and number at the church office. The more helpers, the lighter the load!! And your support will provide on-going fund-raising for Melrose!

◆ **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!

◆ **Upcoming Dates** ◆

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY -The Prayer Shawl group is starting to meet again on the last Saturday of the month. We gather in the parlour of Melrose U. C. beginning at 9:30 am to enjoy a light snack while we work on knitting & crocheting. Supplies and patterns are available. Please drop in at any time on Saturday morning to see what is happening.

WOMEN IN TOUCH - Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6:30 to 9 pm. The WIT potluck dinner on Feb. 8th welcomes our guest, Liz Pascual, from the "Active Living - Healthy Aging" programme at the YWCA. The topic is "Ageless Grace". This is a delicious evening of shared food and fellowship. Come and join the fun!

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.

◆ **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 – January 30

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Guides	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium
Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour

Tuesday – January 31

Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Auditorium, Sanctuary

Wednesday – February 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 – February 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 – February 3

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Saturday – February 4

Tom Schilling: Master Class	7:30 p.m.	Chapel
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Sunday – February 5

Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Melrose Annual General Meeting	11:30 a.m.	Sanctuary, Aud.