

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

◆ Sunday, March 12, 2017 ◆

LENT II

* 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 – *Behold, the Lamb of God*

E. Daley

* OPENING HYMN – *As Comes the Breath of Spring*

VU 373

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Christ, you are the Light of the World.

All: Come into the dark places of our lives and light our way.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all who need help!

**All: Our help comes from God,
the one who made heaven and earth.**

One: Come, all who desire blessing!

**All: Our blessing comes from God,
the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.**

One: Come, all who long for salvation!

**All: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ,
sent by God to save the world.**

PRAYER AND CANDLE FOR LENT II

**All: Gracious God, the life and the Passion of Jesus,
your beloved Son, give us the sure hope of redemption.
May we strip ourselves of anything in our lives that
separates us from you. May we look to the**

example of your suffering as we seek to bear our own. May we be strengthened in our faith. Amen.

(two purple candles are lit)

RESPONSE (sung)

MV 67

One: *Kyrie eleison,*

All: *Kyrie eleison,*

One: *Christe eleison,*

All: *Christe eleison,*

One: *Kyrie eleison,*

All: *Kyrie eleison.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God is with you. Look within. Do not be afraid;
for God will bring you healing and hope.

All: **Amen.**

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

★ HYMN – *Dance with the Spirit*

MV 156

A TIME WITH CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

◆ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ◆

READER: Ken Laidman

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 121

VU 844

THE GOSPEL: John 3: 1-17

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - "Being Born from Above"

ANTHEM-- *Witness*

trad./arr. J. Halloran

◆ **RESPONSE** ◆

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERING

* OFFERING HYMN—*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

VU 149, Verse 4

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (said together)

**Gracious God,
we dedicate to you not only these gifts,
but also ourselves, in deep gratitude--
for your call on our lives,
your guidance in the baptismal journey,
and for blessing us
that we may be a blessing to others.
Accept what we bring
for your own good purposes.
In Christ we pray. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

followed by The Prayer of Jesus:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN – *As the Sun with Longer Journey*

VU 111

* COMMISSIONING 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 ◆

Another lengthy lesson from John's gospel is the focus of our worship for the third Sunday of the Lenten season which tells the story of the woman at the well. The Gospel of John tends to reveal Jesus' identity through a series of episodes or "recognition scenes." These encounters are opportunities for people to recognize Jesus as the Son of God, the Word made flesh, and share the good news with others. The thing that seems to stand in the way of people recognizing Jesus in John's Gospel is their tendency to look only as deep as appearances, to stay at the literal level rather than go deeper with Jesus to the spiritual level. "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep," says the woman at the well ([John 4:11](#)). Jesus, however, is talking about spiritual sustenance, the living water that you don't need a bucket to receive. This particular woman is entangled in a situation, personally and in relation to the community, which she cannot resolve. She has no means to gain dignity or community; such a task is too large for her. As far as the (male-dominated) community is concerned, she has three strikes against her: she is female; she has a sketchy relationship history; and she is a Samaritan. Still, Jesus speaks to her and offers her living water—a relationship with God through him that restores her both to dignity and to community.

Thank You... ♦

...to our March coffee hosts - Barb and Keith Mann.



♦ Spring Cleaning Time ♦

Please check out the marked pile of unclaimed goods in the kitchen (dishes, platters etc.) and see if any belong to you. Any unclaimed goods will be donated to Bibles for Mission on March 27.

♦ Water Changes Everything ♦

March 25 @ 6:30pm - Melrose United Church , Auditorium

Come out for an evening on Earth Hour to engage in understanding water usage and water conservation. Guest Speaker, Mike Nagy, will talk about Water usage in Wellington County where Nestle uses the water table for profit. There will be displays and refreshments. Free admission, however donation at the doors will be accepted.

♦ Our Adult Study.... ♦

... of Diana Butler Bass's book *Grounded* began on **March 1 at 7 p.m.** at the McMaster Innovation Park. It continues **March 22 and 29**. You are welcome to attend any or all sessions. The book is available from the Hamilton Presbytery Resource Centre at Olivet United Church.

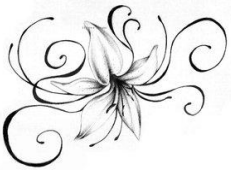
♦ Bible Study Dates ♦

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 ♦

Thursdays are for fun: join us Thursday evening from 6pm-7pm for a fun open hour of gym time here at the church! Please note that there will be no club on **March 16**. We will resume club next week.

◆ **Easter and Chancel Flowers and Gifts** ◆



Memorial donations for Easter and Chancel Flowers and Gifts will be accepted until **Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017**. Celebrate the memory of someone special to you and your family with a donation to the Easter and Chancel Flower and Gift Fund.

The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary on **Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017**, and on other special Sundays throughout the year. Special donation envelopes are available in the narthex and in the sanctuary, with an enclosed paper for writing memorial names.

◆ **Corner Shoppe Updates** ◆

- **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.

◆ **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.

◆ **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 – March 13

Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Quilting	1:00 p.m.	Auditorium
Guides, Brownies	6:00 p.m.	Gym, Auditorium

Big Book	7:00 p.m.	Parlour, Auditorium
Tuesday – March 14		
Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Parlour
Tai Chi	7:30 p.m.	Parlour
Bach Elgar Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.	Aud., Chapel
Wednesday March 15		
Duet Club of Hamilton	9:00 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
Adult Study	7:00 p.m.	McMaster Innovation Park
Thursday – March 16		
Early Years: Newborn	9:15 a.m.	Parlour
Early Years: Family	10:30 a.m.	Parlour
Carpet Bowling	1:00 p.m.	Bowling Area
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 17		
Saturday - March 18		
On Course Education	9:30 a.m.	On Course Rental Area
Sunday – March 19		
Choir Practice	9:40 a.m.	Chapel
Melrose Worship	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary