** MELROSE UNITED CHURCH **

86 Homewood Avenue  Hamilton, Ontario  L8P 2M4

905 522 1323*melrose@melroseunited.ca*

*www.melroseunited**.ca* 

www.facebook.com/melroseunitedchurch
 Instagram: @melroseuc

Youtube channel: Melrose United Church Virtual Service



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Minister:  | Rev. Sonia Ireson  |
| Music Director:Family Ministries Coordinator:Custodian:Office Administrator: | Alexander Cann Meg Chalmers Kevin Geluch Lorraine Lowry |

 **Sunday, May 14, 2023 **

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Christian Family Sunday (Mother’s Day)**

#   GATHERING IN COMMUNITY 

PRELUDE - Handel Water Music - Air

## WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH

OPENING HYMN – Rejoice, the Lord is King VU 213

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

One: The land on which we worship and serve God each week was first inhabited and cared for by the people of the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe who are covered under the Upper Canada Treaty. For thousands of years, they walked on and treated the land with respect. May we continue with respect, by living our lives moving gently in creation, listening, learning, and striving to be people of reconciliation.

LITURGY OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

***Christ Candle is already lit***

One: Hear these words “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” and know that we are in the presence of Jesus, the Christ.

GATHERING WORDS (adapted from David Lander)

One: There’s a story told of Albert Einstein travelling by train. He couldn’t find his ticket when the conductor came looking. He looked in his vest pocket, his pants pocket, and his briefcase, but no ticket. “Not to worry, Dr. Einstein,” the conductor said. “I know who you are. We all know who you are, and I’m sure you bought a ticket.” As the conductor moved down the aisle, looking back, he noticed Einstein on his hands and knees, searching under the seat for his ticket. “Dr. Einstein, don’t worry,” he said. “I know who you are. You don’t need a ticket. I’m sure you bought one.” Einstein arose and said, “Young man, I too know who I am. What I don’t know is where I am going.”

**All: The love story of Easter reminds us of who we are as children of God. We are called to accompany others as we are accompanied by God. We also learn where we are going and that we are cared for on the journey, even as we continue to make decisions for ourselves and reach out to others. In this place, we gather in a God-connection and a people-of-faith connection to embrace the invitation to this journey and to welcome the challenges and the questions, the hope and the possibility, that are part of the ride. Let us come together in worship.**

PRAYER OF APPROACH (adapted from Jean Leckie)

**All: God of our comings and goings, we give you thanks for your constant presence. God of our successes and our failures, we give you thanks for your unending mercy. God of our living and our dying, we give you thanks for your resurrection power. Bless us, O God as we worship you today on this special day when we remember the nurture and strength of mothers. We do not limit our thanksgiving to biological mothers, but to all who provide their love freely in the care of others. Help us to move forward with thanksgiving for the past and hope for the future. Keep us mindful of your love for us and keep us ever faithful to your will for us. Bless us so that we might bless others in our families, our community, our country, and our world. Amen.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

HYMN: What Does the Lord Require of You VU 701

CHILDREN’S TIME - Celebrating Family

**Hearing and Responding to the Word**

Reader: Cheryl Evans

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: I invite you into prayer as we prepare to share God’s Holy Word. Listen to the word which God has spoken, listen to the One, who is close at hand; listen to the voice behind creation; listen – even if you don’t understand; we pray for enlightenment. Amen.

A LESSON FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS: 17:22-31

**\*\* Background to be read by reader before Scripture –**

**Paul and Silas were moving from town to town preaching in the synagogues. While in Thessalonica, there was an uproar of Jews who did not believe Jesus was the Messiah. The believers sent Paul and Silas off to another town for their safety. Here in Beroea, they were received more warmly until the Jews from Thessalonica followed them to this town. Again, they were sent away. This time, they go to Athens where our scripture picks up today.**

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

One: The Word of the Lord

 **All: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 66:8-20 VU Pg 784-785 Part Two and Three

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST: John 14:15-21

**\*\* Background to be read by Reader before Scripture –**

**The beginning of John gives us the familiar words “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.**

**In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? The disciples desire to have Jesus show them the Father but he responds “Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? Our scripture picks up on Jesus’ promise to send the Holy Spirit.**

”If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

”I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

 One: Let us respond in faith to the Gospel of our Lord!

**ALL: Praise be to Jesus Christ!**

REFLECTION: Teamwork, the key to success!

ANTHEM - Jubilate Deo! David Lantz III

INVITATION TO OFFERING (David Lander)

One: A travelling comedian playfully reflected on his first time in North American stores, declaring that he was surprised by all the instant products. Powdered milk: add water and get milk. Powdered orange juice: add water an get orange juice. And then he saw Baby powder! Just add water and…..

 Faith, we know, is not an instant product. Discipleship is not an instant product. Baptism is more than pouring on a little water and voila! You are good for life! In the same way, a wedding though a wonderful celebration, doesn’t make a marriage on its own. Or, as someone once said, being in church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than being in a garage makes you a car.

 Like so much else in life, it is about our will to give our whole selves to this discipleship, our intentions, and our dreams. It is about our willingness to commit ourselves to the journey of faith and support one another along the way. May all that we offer here today enhance our support of one another so that we may be the disciples of Jesus that the world needs. We present our offerings.

COMMUNION HYMN: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence VU 473

OFFERING PRAYER

One: O God of unending and faithful provision, may these gifts sustain our family of faith; may these gifts enliven our faith community; and may these gifts strengthen many communities which are in need. Accept now the offerings of our hands and may they now be blessed as we follow in the way of Jesus. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE TABLE (on insert)

**SENDING FORTH**

CLOSING HYMN- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling VU 333

COMMISSIONING

One: With thankful hearts, we leave this space. May God, our protector, bless our journey. May Jesus Christ, the Risen One, call us to live the gospel word, respect creation, and love our neighbours, and may the Holy Spirit inspire us to be Christ’s church in the world. Go now to do God’s work and live Christ’s love. Amen.

CHORAL BENDICTION - Go Forth for God VU 418, v. 3

 BLESSING

May God keep us in our going out and our

coming in;

In our lying down and our rising up;

In our work and in our leisure;

In our laughter and in our tears;

Until we meet again. Amen**.**

EXTINGUISHING THE CHRIST CANDLE

This light of Christ will remain with us during our week. Please take it into your homes. Nurture it, share it.

Watch it grow! Notice that when you share love it does not diminish, but grows significantly. Bring it back next week to share with your church friends so that we may add hope to our hurting world.

POSTLUDE – Trumpet Anthem Jeremiah Clarke