



◆ Worship Next Week ◆

The Deuteronomy text is a discourse by Moses telling the people that God will rise up prophets for them to hear and heed. The prophets will be one of their own who knows their history and traditions and who speaks the Word that God puts in their mouths. They will follow and be in the tradition of Moses. It is the Word that validates the prophets and they have the authority to speak on behalf of God. But if the prophets tell the people to follow other gods, then they are not prophets of the one True God and they shall be put to death. The role of the faithful people is to listen, not simply to hear, but to listen thoughtfully and courageously. By learning to recognize and trust God's true word, the people learn to trust God's own self.

The psalmist tells us that we are born to wonder, to love and to praise. This Psalm 111 and 112 are written in special literary formats. They are known as an alphabetic acrostic: each line begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. One only sees it when it is read in Hebrew. It is a comprehensive list from A to Z of God's works. One sentence always is met with confusion - The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Our dictionaries describe fear as an unpleasant emotion that alerts danger and brings pain or threat. Yet the use of the word here is not to say that one should be wary of God; a more able translation is ,those that "revere" God, ie. Admire or respect and allow themselves to be open to something greater, something better that lies deep within even the most ordinary experiences.

Mark's account of Jesus ministry is in the early stages of his rising fame. The people who hear and see his works are "amazed." Jesus entered the synagogue not to be instructed by others but to teach. At the same time, he encounters a cause for exorcism. The people hear the words come from a mute man, a noisy gong of demons, who reinforce what Mark tells us right from the beginning that Jesus is the "Holy One of God." Jesus' words have the power to make the unclean clean. "This boundary-breaking, demon-dashing, law-transcending Son of God has arrived in the person of Jesus, and he expects of his followers far more than amazement."



◆ Annual General Meeting ◆

The date has been set! Plan to join us on February 21 for our ONLINE annual general meeting. Details will be available closer to the date. Reports for 2020 were due on **January 15**. If your report is still outstanding please submit it as soon as possible.

◆ Melrose United Church needs YOU! ◆

Although we have not been together in face-to-face community for many months, the work of our Melrose Board and Committees continues. Two key committees (Worship and Faith Formation, and Ministry and Personnel) need Chairs. All committees benefit from new members so that people who have been faithfully performing various roles within the congregation can take a break, or change to a different role. Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute to the life of this congregation by contributing your time and skills in 2021. If you have questions about how you might fit in, please contact Cheryl Evans, Margaret Duff, Sonia Ireson, or any Board Member.



Melrose United Church Benevolent Fund Let's make sure it can continue to help those in need.



Our Benevolent Fund is running low.

The Benevolent Fund is managed by our Rev. Ireson to meet the specific one time needs of people in the community of Hamilton. Often grocery gift cards or other gift cards are provided.

You can donate by:

E transfer to donations@melroseunited.ca (include in your donation that it is for benevolent fund or send us a cheque payable to Melrose United Church, indicating the cheque should go to the benevolent fund

Thanks !!



◆ Donations ◆

The Melrose staff team (and volunteer base) continues to do work behind the scenes even though we cannot use the building to worship together. If you are looking to support the ongoing work of the church you can:

1. Sign up for P.A.R. (preauthorized remittance) through the office.
2. Make a one time or ongoing donation through Canada Helps.Org
3. Send a donation through e-transfer to donations@melroseunited.ca.



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PLEASE JOIN US VIRTUALLY!

H.A.A.A. Renewal Plan

Dear Residents,

The City of Hamilton will be hosting a Public Information Centre (PIC) to launch the Hamilton Amateur Athletic Association Grounds (H.A.A.A.) Renewal Plan project.

H.A.A.A. is a 7-acre community park located within the Kirkendall Neighborhood of Ward 1 at 250 Charlton Avenue West, just east of Locke Street. It's home to the Hamilton Tennis Club along its northern edge and abuts Ryerson Recreation Centre and Ryerson Middle School on its east side, with private properties backing onto the park's westerly limits.

The City of Hamilton's Landscape Architectural Services (LAS) is beginning a park Renewal Plan for the HAAA Grounds as the current amenities within the park are nearing the end of their service life. City staff will be looking to replace these amenities in the coming years as part of the park's Renewal Plan. The project goal is to develop an overall concept plan of the park that will be used to coordinate future upgrades and changes, in a phased multi-year approach.



Please join us virtually at one of the following sessions as we launch this exciting project.

- Thursday February 4, 2021 @ 7:30pm or,
- Saturday February 6, 2021 @ 10:30am

These events will be co-hosted with the Ward 1 office virtually through Zoom, and each session will present similar information. You can join us via a landline, cell phone or computer and no special software or camera is needed. To join us, please visit www.hamilton.ca/HAAARenewal after January 15th to obtain the link and/or call in number to the Zoom meeting.

Respectfully,

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