

◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Minister:

Rev. Sonia Ireson

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Alexander Cann

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Meg Chalmers

Custodian:

Kevin Geluch

Office Administrator:

Michelle Millson

◆ **Sunday June 26, 2022** ◆
Third Sunday after Pentecost

MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

* indicates a time to stand, if you are able
congregational responses are in **boldface type**

◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

* OPENING HYMN – *Touch the Earth Lightly*

VU 307

*1 Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.*

*2 We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!*

*3 Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.*

*4 God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

One: We acknowledge that we are worshipping on the Traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabee peoples. May we glean ancestral wisdom from the Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders, whose footsteps from generation to generation walked gently on Turtle Island when it was all unceded and. May we travel together as Treaty peoples of Canada, on a good path with harmony and respect as we move toward a healthy, peaceful future together.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *(by Laura Turnbull)*

One: As we light this Christ candle, may our Loving God kindle the flame in our hearts, that it might glow brightly with the glory of Christ's mercy.

All: Let this light illumine the path of steadfast faithfulness.

One: When shadows cast eerie images along the way, let the candle of faith be stronger than fear.

All: May it always blaze brightly so that we might know the hope found in living the Way of the Liberating Christ.

Amen.

....Christ Candle is Lit....

CALL TO WORSHIP (by Allison Abbott-Wiebe)

One: Enter in this place of joyful welcome to worship our Creator God together. Let us join together to receive the great story of the One who rules all creation with compassion and love.

All: Let us open our hearts, minds, spirits, and souls to experience the good news in song, scripture, and prayer.

PRAYER OF APPROACH – said together (by Cheryl Dillon)

Yahweh, you are most gracious to us. Many are your creative works. You provide us with comfort, love, guidance, and all that we need to thrive in the world you have created. You know the reason why we came to church today. Calm our minds that we may receive your word. Open our hearts that we may learn of your love. Prepare our spirits to be good stewards of your word and actions. This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

Big Question: Can God Actually Talk to Me?

★ HYMN – *Each Blade of Grass*

MV 37

*1 Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.*

*2 Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry outstretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.*

*3 Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.
Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Deborah Ambridge Fisher)

One: Children of God, even in the times when we allow our own needs to take precedence over the needs of others, know that God is aware of not only our actions but also our beautiful potential. God knows that no matter how far we believe we have fallen, there is always room for us to rise up and shine. Know that God loves you just as you are and you are forgiven. And in that forgiveness, you are set free. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION – said together

Loving Creator, we, your fragile children, sometimes neglect to act gently and faithfully. We allow our own wants, desires, needs, and emotions to control our actions. We may speak harshly, even cruelly sometimes, and although we instantly regret it, we may do nothing to heal the pain we caused. We come to you today in humble supplication. We admit our faults and ask for the strength to be the kind of people you know we can be. Amen.

◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

Reader: Imogen Clase

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (by Beth Johnson)

One: The news begins and we experience stories of unrest, dissatisfaction, and violence. It troubles us. But, in this place, we receive the good news of God in Jesus and our troubled feelings are eased. Holy Spirit, bring us peace as we receive the word today. Amid the turmoil of the world around us, sustain us with God's peace found in the words of scripture. Amen.

WISDOM OF ISRAEL: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

One: Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and

Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20

VU 791

Refrain: God, bend your ear and hear my prayer.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62

One: When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the

Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

One: The Gospel of Lord, Jesus Christ

All: Praise be to you, O Christ

REFLECTION: Moving On!

INVITATION TO OFFERING: (by Fern Gibbard)

How privileged we are that the Creator, God of heaven and earth, who cares intimately for all creation, asks and allows us to work to bring the life and hope, the peace and justice of God's kingdom into reality. We thank you, the people of Melrose for your continued generous support.

★ OFFERTORY HYMN – *God of All Good*
God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,
use them your holy purpose to fulfil;
tokens of love and pledges brought anew
that our whole life is offered to your will.

VU 539, verse 1

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One: Creator God, we give you thanks for the Holy Spirit, when some of us are afraid to take the next step in facing the challenges in our daily lives. You give us the courage to go on; you breathe your life into us. Spirit of truth, compassion,

generosity, joy, patience, peace, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control, faith, hope and charity, forgive us when we have been careless with our words; enable us to fulfil this list of pleasing attributes that make us shine as Christian people. Help us to speak for the underdog; to act in helping any in need; to listen to those who are broken, hurt, isolated, lonely or lost.

Spirit of God, come to us through walls that divide; lead us into understanding and community with those who have been set apart. Take the unspoken prayers in our hearts and turn them into justice and proclamation.

We pray for our sister community of First Pilgrim, for their minister, their lay leaders, and their mission in the world. We pray for our community of Melrose, for Vic and for all our home-bound, all those traveling and summering at the cottage and for those whose needs we are not even aware, may You, Great God, hear them and answer in your love.

(Quiet Reflection)

Followed by the Lord's Prayer (said together)

Our Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory

Forever and ever. Amen.

★ CLOSING HYMN – *Come and Bless Us, God*

VU 596

COMMISSIONING (by Beth Johnson)

One: The world is waiting for a message of love and new life; go
and proclaim this message with all that you have, knowing
that we are not alone. Amen.

SUNG BLESSING – Grant to Us Your Peace On Earth

VU 955

BENEDICTION

One: 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.

POSTLUDE