

# ◆ MELROSE UNITED CHURCH ◆

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Photo credit: Ralph Moulton

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Music Director:

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◆ Sunday September 25, 2022 ◆

Sixteenth after Pentecost

## MELROSE UNITED CHURCH

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

### ◆ GATHERING ◆

PRELUDE – Schmucke dich, O liebe Seele J. Brahms

CHORAL INTROIT – Blessed Be the Lord E. Daley

\* OPENING HYMN – *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* VU 220

*1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;  
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.  
Come, all who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.*

*2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,  
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.  
Have you not seen, how all you needed has been  
met by God's gracious ordaining?*

*3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:  
ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
who out of love will befriend us.*

*4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen sound from God's people again:  
gladly with praise we adore him.*

## WELCOME AND LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

One: By our land acknowledgements, we recognize that we worship on lands that have been occupied for millennia by the Indigenous peoples under the Upper Canada Treaty. The Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe walked on and cared for this land which we now have for our exclusive use. We promise to abide by the responsibilities laid out in the treaty, which guides the relationship between all dwellers on this land. We acknowledge that we are treaty people, as we live, work, play and worship in this space.

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *(Jim McKean)*

One: The light of Christ shines through our voice and words, through our gestures and actions, and through the face we present to the world.

**All: So let us light this candle to remind us that we can be the Light of Christ for all.**

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(Bill Steadman)*

One: This is God's world. We marvel at the wonders of creation. We celebrate the beauty that surrounds us.

**All: God is the source of all goodness.**

One: This is God's time. We pause to be renewed and refreshed. We open ourselves to the insight of the sages, the hope of ages past and a vision for the future.

**All: God is the source of all hope.**

One: This is Christ's church. We share a mission of peace and goodwill. We prepare to serve with a sense of love. We look beyond ourselves to others who live in our community and beyond. We expand our vision to include all of God's

creation.

**All: Christ is the source of our vision for the future. We come to worship in response to Christ's vision and God's hope for all of the earth and its creatures.**

PRAYER OF APPROACH – said together (Ryan McNally)

**All: Creator God, you are the one who makes all things; you make the sun and the rain fall on the just and the unjust, yet your ways can be hard for mere mortals to comprehend. We ask that you send your Spirit to be among us as we worship you, that in our worship we may offer your praise, and in so doing, come to know you better so that we may reflect your will for all creation. In the name of Jesus, we offer our prayer. Amen.**

★ HYMN – *We Praise You, Creator*

VU 293

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE CHILD WITHIN US

Big Question: Why should I pray if God already knows what will happen?

## ◆ SERVICE OF THE WORD ◆

Reader: Jim Kraemer

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, seeds are planted in the scripture that are nourished and brought to fruit in our listening. May the Holy Spirit touch us so that we might hear your Word for us. Amen.

Wisdom of Israel: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

One: The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth

year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. Zedekiah had said, "Why do you prophesy and say: Thus says the Lord: I am going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it; Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord. And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

One: The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 91

Michael Joncas 1979

Refrain

The musical score for the Refrain is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has two staves: the top staff is the melody and the bottom staff is the bass line. The lyrics are: "And I will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,". The second system also has two staves with the lyrics: "bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the". The third system has two staves with the lyrics: "sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.".

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You who dwell in the shelter of your God,  
 who abide in God's shadow for life,  
 say to your God: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"  
 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
 and famine will bring you no fear:  
 under God's wings your refuge, God's faithfulness your shield. R

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;  
 though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.  
 For to the angels is given a command to guard you in all your ways,  
 upon their hands they will bear you up,  
 lest you dash your foot against a stone. R

"Because they have set their love upon me I will deliver them,  
 I will uphold them because they know my name.  
 When they call to me I will answer,  
 I will be with them in trouble,  
 I will rescue and bring them to honour.  
 With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my saving power." R

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

One: "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house – for I have five brothers – that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

One: The Gospel of Lord, Jesus Christ

**All: Praise be to you, O Christ**

REFLECTION: Tuned in, and Responsive!



CHORAL ANTHEM – O Lord, Thy Word Endureth

C. Tye

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

One: Holy One, when we consider the remarkable abundance that you have bestowed on us, we are overwhelmed with gratitude. May we use these gifts of money for the work of your kingdom.

We, at Melrose, are thankful for you, the people's continued support.

★ OFFERTORY HYMN – *As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought*

VU 518, verse 1

*As those of old their first-fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield, so we today our first-fruits bring, the wealth of this good land: of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One: Holy God, there is a huge divide in this world between those who are rich and those who are poor. There are those who drive BMWs and those who don't have bus fare. There are those with large portfolios of stocks and shares and those who do not have the money to rent a room. There are those who dine at luxurious restaurants and those who look in dumpsters for food. There are those who can pay the tuition fees of prestigious universities and those who can neither read nor write. How can we close the gap between the rich and poor? We are called to see the divide in our town of Hamilton, as well as our country and worldwide and to respond.

We note that there are those who have challenging and fulfilling work, and there are those for whom work is drudgery, then there are those who have no work at all. There are those who find it difficult to choose a health club, and those who do not know if they will be able to get out of bed in the morning.

There are those who can choose which consultant to see about their illness, and those without a family doctor.

There are those who struggle with dark thoughts, low self-esteem, and depression; and those for whom life is joyful, adventurous, and fun.

We pray for the ones who are sick at home and in hospital, and those facing personal challenges. We pray for those who are grieving and those who are angry and lost. We ask for your help to heal the gap between those who are healthy and those who suffer.

God of abundance, the concept of riches and poverty challenge each one of us. We are tested in our plenty and in our lack, by how we give, how we share, and how we receive. We are tested in our health by how we use our strength of mind and body, and in our sickness by how we deal with our pain and weakness. We are tested as persons of faith by our willingness to give thanks for all we have received, by how we share the good news of Jesus Christ, and by our compassion. We are tested in our diverse responses to the needs of family, friends, and our social and charitable communities. We are called to acknowledge our riches in money, gifts, and talents, and to make a faithful response.

God we pray this day for those in this week's regional prayer cycle, - the church of Rockton/Sheffield, their

minister, their lay leaders, support staff, and congregation – that they may be empowered to carry out the discipleship of Jesus Christ in their corner of the world.

We pray for our community of Melrose – for those who attend regularly, and for those who are travelling, home bound, or otherwise engaged. May you provide a balance and strength and peace in the manner that each may need. We pray for Vic and for those whose needs we are not aware.

We pray for peace for the Ukraine; for peaceful change to political regimes; We pray for our communities and our families and our homes.

#### Our Lord's Prayer (Ecumenical Version)

All: Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
Now and forever. Amen

★ CLOSING HYMN –*All My Hope is Firmly Grounded* VU 654  
**1. All my hope is firmly grounded  
in the great and living Lord;**

*who, whenever I most need him,  
never fails to keep his word.  
God I must wholly trust,  
God the ever good and just.*

*2. Tell me, who can trust our nature,  
human, weak, and insecure?  
Which of all the airy castles  
can the hurricane endure?  
Build on sand, naught can stand  
by our earthly wisdom planned.*

*3. But in every time and season,  
out of love's abundant store,  
God sustains the whole creation,  
fount of life forevermore.  
We who share earth and air  
count on God's unfailing care.*

*4. Thank, O thank, our great Creator,  
thru God's only Son this day;  
God alone, the heavenly potter,  
made us out of earth and clay.  
Quick to heed, strong in deed,  
God shall all the people feed.*

#### COMMISSIONING

May the pressing needs of the world not become commonplace for us and blind us to the reality of the great divide between those who have and those who do not. May we be moved to compassion to work for change.  
Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION -Amen

VU 969

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 - Wheetland, excerpt

O. Peterson