



◆ Melrose Vision ◆

To respond to God's call by being a people of faith who open our hearts and minds to the true power and love of Jesus Christ. To live our faith by providing within our changing community a welcoming environment which encourages all people to care for and accept one another.

◆ Worship Next Week ◆

In the four verses before our passage reading for today, we learn that the angel and the pillar of cloud that had been leading the Israelite army, changed position, from the front to the rear of the advancement, once they reached the shores of the Red Sea. Moses, alone is now in the lead with the full empowerment of God.

From the flank, God is able to protect the fleeing people by positioning Godself in between the Egyptians and Israelites. Moses with outstretched staff, both commands the sea to split to allow dry land for their escape, and then closure, to ensnare their followers. It is a dramatic, miraculous scene, of delivery and at the same time, devastation.

To the Jewish people, God is their hero and saviour; to the Egyptians, God is their villain and punisher. Incredible power unleashed; something which I can neither condone, justify, or criticize, for it is beyond my understanding.

Matthew's scripture sets up our model for forgiveness. It especially relates to those who recognize and ask for forgiveness, and reminds us that God is the one who forgives us unconditionally throughout our lives, with no limitation, as many times as it takes.

The example of the one who throws themselves on God's mercy for an extremely large debt, reminds us that all of us are in God's debt for our very lives. Having been the recipient of such mercy, how could we not go out and do likewise with those who owe us. Forgiveness has no



bounds. One does not condone the behaviour, or become weak by forgiving it; one is freed from its bitterness.

◆ Updated Building Hours ◆

We are slowly increasing our building hours. However, we are still requesting that visiting the building is by scheduled visit only. Additionally, masks are required at all times when you are in the building. Please see planned hours below:

Updated Building Hours

September 1-13

September 2 - 8am-6:30pm

September 9 - 1:30-6:30pm

September 10 - 3:00-9:00pm

September 11 - 8am-5pm

Beginning September 14th

Monday: 8:00am-9:00pm

Tuesday: 9:00am-1:00pm; 3:00-9:00pm*

Wednesday: 9:00am-6:30pm

Thursday: 9:00am-1:00pm; 3:00-9:00pm

Friday: 8am-5:00pm

*exception September 15th - 3:00-9:00pm only, no guaranteed morning hours



◆ Office Hours Next Week ◆

The office will not be open next week. Urgent pastoral care info is available on the church's voicemail. Email and telephone messages to the office will not be checked until Monday September 14.

◆ 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.