**MELROSE UNITED CHURCH**

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| Worship Leader:  | Rev. Margot Feyerer |
| Music Director:Custodian:Church Administrator: | Alexander Cann Kevin Geluch Sue Hawthorne-Bate |

**Sunday, March 9th, 2025**

**First Sunday of Lent**

# *GATHERING IN COMMUNITY*

*The* PRELUDE

*The* INTROIT ~ God is Light, G. Thalben-Ball

*The* PROCESSIONAL HYMN ~ VU 335 At the Name of Jesus

WELCOME *and* LIFE *of the* CHURCH

*The* LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *&*

LIGHTING *of the* CANDLE *of* PEACE

*The* LIGHTING *of the* CHRIST CANDLE

*The* CALL *to* WORSHIP

One: As we travel this Lenten pathway,
we journey together, a community of faith.

**All: As we travel this Way of Jesus,
we journey together, but also alone.**

One: Practising our faith:

**All: living Christ’s call to love God with all that we are, to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.**

One: Practising our faith:

**All: as stewards on the Way.**

*The* OPENING PRAYER

**All: Mighty God, you heard the cries of your people
and rescued them from the hand of their oppressors.
You cared for them in the wilderness.
In the life of Christ, you experienced that wilderness yourself. As we journey through our own wilderness,
we give thanks that your Spirit sustains us, and your love guides us. Amen.**

*The* LORD’S PRAYER

**All: 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.**

*The* PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**All: We meet you here, God of faithfulness, our hands and lives full of all our foolish ways. We treat the strangers who walk among us with fear and doubt. We impose hard words on those who need to hear hope and grace in their lives.**

**So now we bring our hearts to you, Generous God, setting them down before you in hopes that you will mend them. We pray you will answer us with your forgiving love. And as you forgive us, may we go forth to be generous with our lives towards others, even as the one who is Lord of all, Jesus Christ, has been so generous to us. Amen**

*The* WORDS *of* ASSURANCE

One: The good news is that there is nothing we do that can conquer us, for we are sheltered in God’s gracious mercy and hope.

**All: This is the truth we believe. The Word is in our hearts, and on our lips, as we give thanks to God who is our shelter and our live. Amen.**

***TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND***

***THE CHILD WITHIN US***

*A* HYMN ~ VU 375 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

***HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD***

*Reader ~ Gwyneth Xagoraris*

*The* PRAYER *of* ILLUMINATION

**All: Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept you Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The* BOOK *of* DEUTERONOMY, Chapter 26, verses 1 to 11

One: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 91 ~ Sung by the Choir

*The* BOOK *of* ROMANS, Chapter 10, verses 8b to 13

One: Hear the Good News!

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

*The* REFLECTION

*An* ANTHEM ~ Behold the Tabernacle of God, W. Harris

*An* INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*The* OFFERING HYMN ~ VU 116, verse 1

Giver of the Perfect Gift

**Giver of the perfect gift,**

**Only hope of human race,**

**Hear the prayer our hearts uplift,**

**Gathered at thy throne of grace.**

*The* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***SERVICE OF THE TABLE***

*Communion service music ~ VU 936-939*

*The* Great Prayer *of* Thanksgiving

One: May the God of wilderness hopes be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us bring our hearts to God.

**All: We offer them to God who fills them with life.**

One: With songs on our lips and in our hearts, let us praise God.

**All: We sing of what we believe, offering thanksgivings from our hearts.**

One: From the deep wilderness of chaos,

you brought forth the refuge of your heart,

God our God, creating

   mountains that shade the valleys below,

   rich grain and vegetables to feed the hungry,

   rivers and lakes filled with the water of life.

This creation was entrusted to those

shaped in your image, the first fruits of your love,

   but we chose to follow temptation

   into that wilderness we call death.

Seeking to be generous to all,

you continued to send prophets to us,

women and men who carried your words

to us in their hands and their hearts,

   yet we continued to serve the empty

   promises of sin and fear.

So you sent the Word near to us

in Jesus, the One who came to reveal

your salvation to us.

With old-timers as well as newcomers,

with insiders and those who have stood outside

we offer our songs of praise to you:

**All: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;**

**Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

One: Holy are you, God of mercy and hope,

and blessed is Jesus Christ, Lord of all.

When he could have feasted on glory,

   he came to feed all who hungered

   for hope and for life.

When he could have strode the halls of power,

   he chose to walk the wilderness,

   picking up all who stumble along the way.

When he could have chosen the easy way,

letting the angels carry the burden,

   he confronted death face to face,

   being flung into its wasteland,

   where you brought him forth into new life.

As we seek to believe in our hearts all he did and taught, as we try to confess his death and resurrection, we proclaim the word of faith that is so mysterious:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come, come again.**

One: Led by you, we come to this Table,

where the first fruits of redemption,

the bread of life and the cup of salvation,

are filled with the gifts of your Spirit

and offered to all who gather before you.

As we are fed by the bread,

may we become as generous as you,

making no distinction as to who we will serve.

As the cup nourishes us with your life,

may we be poured out for others,

   feeding those who are hungry,

   joining the voices of the powerless,

   offering our lives in grace and hope to all.

And when we gather at last where you dwell,

we will celebrate the great feast

of the first fruits of your love and grace,

joining our sisters and brothers in praising you,

God in Community, Holy in One. **Amen.**

*The* GREAT AMEN

**All: Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

*The* BREAKING *of the* BREAD

One: Jesus Christ, the bread of life.

**All:** **Amen**

*The* POURING *of the* CUP

One: Jesus Christ, the true vine.

**All: Amen**

*The* SHARING *of the* ELEMENTS

*A* HYMN ~ VU 470 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

*The* PRAYER *after* COMMUNION

**All: Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us bread from heaven to nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love:  teach us, we pray, to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***SENDING FORTH***

*The* RECESSIONAL HYMN ~ VU 112 O God, How We

 Have Wandered

*The* COMMISSIONING

*The* CHORAL BENEDICTION ~ VU 9

*The* POSTLUDE ~

*If you would like to light a candle to represent your prayers for a person or situation that is in your heart, you are invited to do so at the beginning or end of any worship service.*

*Personal prayer requests – please write your prayer requests in our Prayer Share Book during the service .*

**Announcements**

**Sunday, March 9th 2pm to 5pm**

**Board Games!**

All ages welcome! Bring along your favourite board game. You do not need a partner. Entry fee, $5 for individuals, $10 for families.

**Saturday, March 15th**

**Knitting & Crochet 9:30 – 11:30**

Bring your current project and materials, beginners welcome! Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided.

**Sunday, March 16th**

**National Affirming/PIE Day**

Public, Intentional, Explicit Inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Please join us after the service to celebrate PIE Day! If you would like to donate a pie, please contact Libby.

**Fiddes Fresh Food Drive ~ March 17-27**

A friendly congregational competition between Melrose United and St. John's Anglican!

Fiddes will deliver fresh fruit and vegetables to Mission Services (Melrose) and the Good Shepherd (St. John's) food banks. Produce is the most requested item provided to service users.

The food drive will run from **March 17-27 with delivery on March 28.**

Here is a list of items, with Country of Origin attached. All contributions are deeply appreciated. Last year we purchased over $1000 worth of fresh foods thanks to the generous donors who supported this project.

50lb Carrots (Mexico) - $39.50

25lb Red Onion (USA) - $31.25

24x2lb onion (Canada) - $38.00 Cabbage x 12 (Canada) – $36.00

B-nut Squash x 35lb (Mexico) - $54.50

Acorn Squash x 35lb (Mexico) - $68.50

Mac apples 12x3lb (Canada) - $54.50

Gala Apples x 100 (Canada) - $61.00

Oranges 72ct (USA) - $54.50

Banana 40lb (Guatemala) - $42.00

Lettuce x 30 (USA) - $54.50

Broccoli x 20lb (Mexico) - $34.75

Beets x 50lb (Canada) - $34.00

Boston Lettuce x 12 (Canada) -$31.50

Please support this social outreach program by E-transfer (dustin@fwp1.ca), calling with a credit card (905-570-7900 -ask for Dustin), cash or debit (60 Ewen Road, Hamilton). Thanks to all!

**Friday, March 28th ~ Progressive Euchre**

Doors open at 7pm, games start at 7:30 sharp! Beginners welcome!

**The Gospel of Motown: A Lenten Journey of Faith & Music**

**Thursdays: March 13, 20, 27, & April 3, 10,**

**7:30–8:45pm on Zoom**

The 1960s brought change—war, justice movements, and evolving faith. Sound familiar? The Gospel of Motown invites us to reflect and find hope in the voices of the past.

Join us for a Lenten study pairing scripture with the prophetic voices of Motown artists—exploring themes of prophecy, lament, faith, and grace. Together, we'll seek justice, peace, and joy. Presented by Rev Brenna Baker.

**Birthday Sundays**

We would like to celebrate the birthdays of members of the Melrose family. The birthdays are going to be celebrated by the seasons. Spring birthdays (March, April & May), will be celebrated on the last Sunday of May, which is May 25th. Please come to the parlour after service on May 25th for Birthday Sunday and enjoy a special sweet treat with your tea and coffee.

**Income Tax Receipts**

Income tax receipts have now been mailed! If you do not receive yours, please contact Sue in the office.

**Vacant Unit Tax ~** A friendly reminder!

All residential property owners in the City of Hamilton are required to declare the occupancy status of their properties for the 2024 tax year by Wednesday, April 30, 2025. Failure to submit a declaration by the deadline will result in the residential unit being deemed vacant, and the Vacant Unit Tax will be applied.

**How to declare:** Residential property owners can submit their declaration online at  https://hamilton.ca/VacantUnitTax  or by phone at 905-546-2573.

***All residential property owners must submit their 2024 occupancy status!***

**News From the Office**

Please be sure to submit your items for the bulletin or newsletter by Wednesday of each week. Kindly email melrose@melroseunited.ca. Thank you!

