



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

Office: (306) 752-2288 Email: melfortuc@sasktel.net

Website: www.melfortunitedchurch.com

Ministers: All of us

Worship Leaders: Don Neher & Gloria Stushnoff

Music: Jodi Allen

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Grace Wilton

Scripture Readers: Eileen Brooks, Don Neher

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 30, 2017

Camping Sunday

Third Sunday after Easter - Year A

WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

As we gather for worship today we acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 Territory. We honour the Cree and Métis people for whom this place has been a homeland for thousands of years. We respect the sacredness of our home and the ground on which we walk and we are grateful to gather here in peace and hope.

LIGHTING OF WORSHIP CANDLES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"In Heavens Air"* - by the North East Community Band

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Shhh, did you notice that?

Two: People are talking, whispering, laughing...

One: That too, but more...

Two: There's the hum of electricity, the speakers, instruments ready to break out into song.

One: That too, but more... a vibration.

Two: Hey, do you feel that?

One: I feel a bit chilly, I feel thirsty...

Two: That too, but more...

One: I feel a bit nervous in front of all these people...

Two: That too, but more... a presence.

All: God is here!

One: That's it! God is here!

Two: That's it! God, the vibration, presence, in us, through us, around us, God is here!

All: Let's celebrate!

HYMN (MV 88): "Over My Head"

OPENING PRAYER: (in unison)

Peace.

Peace in our hearts.

Peace in our homes.

Peace with justice in our church, community, and world.

Amen.

HYMN (VU 577): "I've Got Peace like a River"

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE (Earth Day): (in unison)

God of creating and all imagining,

**in a moment of your divine energy and cosmic fire,
we were begun.**

In your watery world, we were allowed to take root.

In your spacious land, many have thrived.

We confess

**that spaciousness has been abused,
that stewardship has been ignored,
that your imaging has been obscured.**

We confess

that we have failed as co-creators of this living world.

Rain your Spirit down and flow through our lives.

Open our eyes to the universal plenty of creation.

Inflame our hearts with love,
that being born of fire, water, and divine imagining,
we may live in the spaciousness of being a people of God.
Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Had the original fireball of creation
been one degree hotter or colder, or one second faster or slower,
we would not be here.

We have been loved from the beginning.

In God's love we are heard.

In God's love we are forgiven.

[written by Tim Reaburn, 2001.]

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 95): *"How Deep the Peace"*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (VU 289): *"It Only Takes a Spark"*

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalm 46

Matthew 8:23-27

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 191): *"What Can I Do?"*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**As the rivers run, overflowing their banks,
as the ugly bulb becomes a yellow daffodil,
as the earth-bound caterpillar turns into a winged butterfly,
as the empty tomb tells us Christ is risen,
so may your love transform these gifts into abundant life,
abundant life for all.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Divine Source in whom we live and move and have our being, we celebrate your presence this day. We give you thanks for the many years of vibrant ministry shared in the camps within our United Church of Canada. Thank you for the unique ways each camp shares your presence and call to be loving co-creators with you in this world.

Inspire us today to hear your call and to participate in the ministry of camp in concrete ways. Ever-present God, this day and every day we pray for peace. We dream of a world in which peace with justice is the norm: peace in the world, peace in our communities, peace in our homes, and peace within our beings.

Compassionate God, empower us to be more active in our concern, more generous with ourselves and our resources, that we might actively participate in the creation of peace within our world, community, church, workplaces, schools, and camps. Give us the courage, the patience, the honesty about ourselves, and the gentleness of spirit that are needed in a world filled with turmoil.

As our work requires the balance of worship to be sustainable, remind us to also “be still” in meaningful ways. Remind us to breathe deeply and to centre ourselves in your unfailing presence with and within us. Help us to see you in the faces and the actions of all whom we meet. These and the prayers that we hold within our spirits we offer to you with the prayer of Jesus...

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 424): *"May the God of Hope go With Us"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Let us go in peace to be agents of peace,
knowing that we never go alone,
for the grace of Jesus,
the love of God,
and the peace of the Spirit are always with us.

CHORAL BLESSING (VU p. 884): *"You Shall Go Out with Joy"*

Prayer Resources:

**Seasons of the Spirit Seasons FUSION, Lent-Easter 2017; Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1, Advent through Pentecost; Prayers to Share Year A, Responsive Prayers for Each Sunday of the Year; the United Church of Canada Lent-Easter 2017 Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

Next Week's (May 7, 2017-Easter 4A) Readings:

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23 (VU pp. 747-749)

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome you all to worship, especially our visitors or guests. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please remember to sign our guestbook at the entrance of the church.

Please stay back for a cup of coffee and conversation at the CE Centre immediately following the service.

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

May 1st – May 6th

Garage sale set up and garage sale

Tuesday, May 2nd

@ 7 pm – Women Alive

Wednesday, May 3rd

@ 4:40 pm – Worship Committee Meeting

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, May 4th

@ 10:30am – Bible Study

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

Let the Church Music Serenade You into Spring

May 7th – “Disciples of Christ” – Besig & Price

Spring Garage Sale

Christian Education Centre

Friday, May 5th, 9 am – 5 pm

Saturday, May 6th, 9am – 12 pm

Scott Woods and his Band- Twin Fiddle express

Saturday, May 20th @ 7pm, CE Centre

Adult \$25 / Child \$10

Tickets@ George Home Hardware, Backstage Music, Church Office

Order by Visa or MasterCard – Scott Woods Band Office – 1.855.726.8896

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed from May 23rd until June 8th for holidays and will reopen on Tuesday, June 13th.

FundScrip for May & June

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, June 22nd.

Pro-Life March for Life – 2017

A Pro-Life March is being held in Regina on Thursday, May 11th. There is a poster on the bulletin board in the CE entrance if you would like more details.

Stewardship Second

*We have no peace to offer others, until it has rooted and bloomed
in our own spirits.*