



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 Leader: Mel Annand

Music: Graydon Eskowich

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Gina Woodard

Scripture Readers: Wendy Eskowich, Kim Eskowich

ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 20, 2017

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

People of God, how good and pleasant it is that we have come as kindred together:

Here we remember our Creator,

the lover and maker of all, who called Earth and all its creatures into being.

Place bowl of soil on the table.

Here we are embraced in the loving hospitality of God.

Who knows us as beloved, and holds us in kindness and care all the days of our lives.

Place teapot and cups on table.

Here we meet Christ risen.

We remember we are baptized into the way of compassion, and open our hearts and minds to the Spirit of grace.

Pour water into font.

Here we build the church.

We remember the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Hebrew Scriptures, the apostles of the early church and those whose mission has brought us to this place, and stand ready to take our place with them.

Place wood and sandpaper and put on table.

Here we remember that we are family,

sisters and brothers on a journey of faith, called to be light and salt, and bringers of restoration and peace.

HYMN (VU 395): *“Come In, Come In and Sit Down”*

OPENING PRAYER:

We are glad to come into this time of worship, to step out of the place of the everyday and into the place where ordinary things become extraordinary, out of ordinary time and into the time where things can be made anew. **Amen.**

HYMN (VU 574): *“Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love”*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

Sometimes we fail to say “No” to those who demand of us things that are contrary to your will.

Forgive us.

Sometimes we fail to say “Yes” to risks that require faith that we have not yet acquired.

Forgive us.

Sometimes we fail to wait, for you to create a seemingly impossible opportunity for hope, when all hope is lost.

Forgive us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: *(in unison)*

God is saving me by divine mercy. I am not exempted from God's mercy; I am saved in spite of myself. When I am good and when I am bad, I am God's beloved child.

This is God's assurance to me.

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 147): *"God Help Us to Treasure"*

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

PSALM 133 (VU p. 856)

How pleasant it is when God's people gather together.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph is reunited with his brother.

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected the Hebrews.

Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

A Canaanite mother challenges Jesus.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**God of reconciliation, you are working to make all things new.
Use us your people for your purposes of justice and love.
Amen.**

HYMN (VU 567): *"Will You Come and Follow Me"*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

"Forgiveness comes sometimes in droplets, in bits and pieces."
Restoration and reconciliation is built with bits and pieces, or many actions, by the many droplets that become a whole wellspring of forgiveness. We commit to do our bit. **We pray for...***(silent reflection)*.

People "glue themselves back together," they become whole, but the scars and the cracks still show. We do not have to be without blemish to be bringers of justice in the world. The risen Christ bore the scars of his crucifixion and, even in our brokenness, we can take our part in making heaven on earth. **We pray for ...***(silent reflection)*.

Eustace's dragon skin is peeled right off. By casting off what has covered up truth and blinded us to the injustices that are carried out, we become partners with God as God works to make all things new. **We pray for ...***(silent reflection)*.

We know that there are troubles throughout the world, in our community, in the lives and homes of our friends and neighbours. We are called to be compassionate and show kindness to those in need, so we commit to making time for those who would benefit from a caring word. **We pray for...***(silent reflection)*.

"The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life." Soil is restorative in nature and so we too would have the nature of restorative and reconciling people.

We pray for the earth and all of creation particularly...(*silent reflection*).

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (MV 173): *“Put Peace in Each Other’s Hands”*

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING:

Go, living into your fullest self, helping others to do the same.

Go, blessed by God, the mother and father of us all;

the Christ, the one who travels with us;

and the Spirit who binds us together.

CHORAL BLESSING: *“My Peace”* – K. Routledge

Prayer Resources:

** Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFusion Pentecost 1.2017; Worship for All Seasons II, Selections from Gathering – Year A; the United Church of Canada Pentecost. 1, 2017 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

Next Week’s (August 27th) Reading (s):

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms 124 (VU p. 848)

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

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

For Pastoral Care Emergencies during Emmanuel's Vacation

(August 1 – 31st) Contact:

Charles McKenzie and Carol Beal McKenzie @ 306.863.2999

Coverage for Summer Services

Sunday, August 27th – CE

Sunday, September 3rd – Property Committee

UCW General Meeting

The UCW General Meeting is September 7th @ 6 pm (Potluck supper). Everyone is encouraged to attend.

September Dates to Note:

Sunday, September 10th – Communion

Sunday, September 17th – Back to Church and Sunday School, Noon Luncheon (Worship Committee)

Friday, September 29th & Saturday, September 30th – Fall Garage Sale

FundScrip

To place an order, please see a member of the finance committee or stop into the office. The next FundScrip order date is Thurs., September 21st. The order will be available for pick up on Thurs. September 28th.

Fall Newsletter

The Fall newsletter will be coming out in September. All people wishing to contribute to the newsletter are asked to get their submissions in by 9am on Tuesday, September 5th. Submissions can be dropped off at the church office or emailed to melfortuc@sasktel.net.

Stewardship Seconds

*Nothing is ever truly lost that is shared with others.
Knowing this, how can we jealously hoard what we
have been given?*