



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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

Website: [www.melfortunitedchurch.com](http://www.melfortunitedchurch.com)

Ministers: All of us

Worship Leader: Bea White, Rachele Heavin

Music: Bernice McCosh

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Kelly Copeland

Scripture Readers: Gina McAvoy, Cheryl Sproule

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**August 27, 2017**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – 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.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Praise God!

**We will sing praises to God.**

Praise God!

**We will seek God's strength and presence continually.**

Praise God!

**We will remember God's wonderful works throughout the ages.**

Praise God!

**For it is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**HYMN (VU 670):** *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

**OPENING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

Jesus, we claim you as Saviour and friend.

This may seem a bold claim,  
yet we know your grace and love  
and so we speak it boldly.

We fix our vision on you so that we  
see the world with the clear sight  
of your discerning Spirit.

We seek to know your mind  
and lay ourselves open to walking your path.

We ask that you gather us in your warm embracing kindness,  
this day and always.

Amen.

**HYMN (VU 506):** *"Take My Life and Let It Be"*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

*Invite the people to cup their hands in front of their bodies, like a bowl, or open vessel.*

**As Moses' mother lay her precious son into your hands, we too would come to you with our prayers of confession and lay our cares and concerns into your hands.**

*Hold a period of silence.*

**As Moses' mother overcame fear to protect her son, we would lay our fears and anxieties into your hands.**

*Hold a period of silence.*

**As Miriam stood hiding in the bushes, uncertain of what was to come, we would lay our uncertainties and insecurities into your hands.**

*Hold a period of silence.*

**As Miriam watched longing for her brother's salvation, we would lay our longings and hope for deliverance into your hands.**

*Hold a period of silence.*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:** *(in unison)*

As Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses up from the river and rescued him, so God rescues us. God is saving all of us by

divine mercy, no exceptions. We are all saved in spite of ourselves, good and bad alike.

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

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US**

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (VU 664):** *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**PSALM 124 (VU p. 848):**  
*If God had not been at our side!*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

***Exodus 1:8-2:10***

*The baby Moses is adopted by Pharaoh's daughter.*

***Romans 12:1-8***

*Present yourselves as a living, holy sacrifice to God.*

**SERMON:**

## **OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING:**

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** *(in unison)*

Gracious God, you have given us so much and you have loved us so steadfastly. In response, we seek to be bearers of your love in the world. We return a little of what you have given us.

May these gifts impact those who receive them in truly meaningful ways. Amen.

**HYMN (VU 372):** *“Though I May Speak”*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Who are we to offer praise to you God, when we often call on your name in vain? Although we lack the words to describe our gratitude for all that you have given us, we know that it is good to praise you.

**So we offer our thanks to you now, both silently and aloud...**

*(Share joys within your community, or invite people to offer their prayers of thanksgiving.)*

Who are we, to offer our concerns for others, when what we think they need is not what they truly need and our inability to provide comfort and peace scares us?

**Although we may not know what to pray, we offer our prayers of concern to you, knowing that the Spirit will intercede on our behalf...**

*(Silent prayers.)*

Who are we, to offer prayers to you, God? We are your children. Your beloved.

**So with confidence we share with you our prayers for ourselves and our ministries, knowing that you will cherish our prayers as precious offerings...**

*(Silent prayers.)*

Who are you, God, to hear and receive these prayers? You are the great I AM. You have journeyed with our ancestors as you continue to journey with us. You are who you will be, our creator, redeemer, and sustainer always.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU 651):** *“Guide Me , O thou Great Jehovah”*

## **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

We are the visible signs of God's loving kindness. May you be vigilant as you observe the world, diligent in your work for peace and justice, and confident that light and hope will never be defeated. Go from here knowing God's goodness in your heart, and assured that you are loved. **Amen.**

**CHORAL BLESSING:** *"My Peace"* – K. Routledge

### **Prayer Resources:**

*\*Prayers to Share Year A, Responsive Prayers for Each Sunday of the Church Year; Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Pentecost 1.2017; Worship for All Seasons II, Selections from Gathering – Year A, and the United Church of Canada Pentecost 1. 2017 Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

### **Next Week's (September 3rd) Reading (s):**

*Exodus 3:1-15*

*Psalms 105:1-6; 23-26, 45c (VU pp.828-829 Parts One and Three)*

*Romans 12:9-21*

*Matthew 16:21-28*

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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*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**

#### **Church Office Closed**

The church office will be closed on Thursday, August 31st.

**For Pastoral Care Emergencies during Emmanuel's Vacation**

**(August 1 – 31<sup>st</sup>) Contact:**

Charles McKenzie and Carol Beal McKenzie @ 306.863.2999.  
Rev. Emmanuel returns to work on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Coverage for Summer Services**

Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Property Committee

**UCW General Meeting**

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

**Choir Rehearsals**

Choir Rehearsals – all interested are invited to join Ages 9-90!!  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please  
be at the rehearsal 5-10 minutes early.

**Bell Choir**

The first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 pm.

**September Dates to Note:**

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – Communion

Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – Back to Church and Sunday School & Noon  
Luncheon (Worship Committee)

Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Fall Garage Sale

**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 5<sup>th</sup>. Submissions can be dropped off at the  
church office or emailed to melfortuc@sasktel.net.

***Stewardship Seconds***

*Stewardship means learning how to receive as well as how to  
give. God's gifts can come from the most unlikely places;  
when we recognize and accept them for what they are  
everyone benefits.*