



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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

Website: www.melfortunitedchurch.com

Worship Time: 10:30 AM

Ministers: All of us

Lead Minister: Emmanuel Menyereye

Music: Grace Wilton

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Imogene Schick

Scripture Readers: Bea White, Gale Strachan

ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 4, 2019

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Year C

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:

My friends in Christ, this is Jesus' promise to the church:

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20)

Church is not another organization to which we belong or one of the many demands on our time, energy, and money.

This is the community where Christ is present.

No matter who else shows up today, Christ will be there. Let us worship.

*(John Moses, Aylesford U.C., Aylesford, N.S.
Used with permission).*

HYMN (VU 374) *"Come and find the quiet centre"*

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

(based on Hos. 11:1,4)

**Holy One, you see us for just who we are,
and yet you love us with a parent's love.
In your enduring love for us, we see both
our guilt and our acquittal.**

**Gracious God, continue to guide us and
teach us to walk in your ways.
In the name of Jesus we pray.
Amen.**

HYMN (MV 28) *"God of the Bible"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

Despite a world that prefers violence rather than discussion, God asks:

How can I give you up?

Despite a world that prefers certainty rather than ambiguity, God asks:

How can I abandon you?

Despite a world that prefers wearing masks rather than telling the truth, God asks:

How could I ever destroy you?

Despite a world that prefers power rather than humility, God says:

I will not punish you in my anger.

Despite a world that prefers uniformity rather than diversity, God says:

My heart will not let me do it.

Despite a world that prefers prejudice rather than creative conflict, God says:

My love for you is too strong.

Despite a world that prefers propriety rather than honesty, God says:

I, the Holy One, am with you.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

God will not abandon us.

God will not give us up.

God will not punish us as our sins deserve.

God's love is too strong.

God, the Holy One, is with us. **Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 90) "Don't be afraid"

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (VU 345) "Come, children, join to sing"

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSIVE READING:

PSALM 107:1-9, 43 (VU p. 831 Part One):

God satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry.

EPISTLE READING:

COLOSSIANS 3:1-11:

Set your mind on things that are above.

GOSPEL READING:

LUKE 12:13-21:

The rich fool who builds bigger barns.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 538) "For the gift of creation"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**All we have and all we are comes from you,
O God, our Creator and Sovereign.**

**If we were to give thanks until the end of time,
we could not repay your benevolence and grace.**

**Take these meager offerings, we pray, and
increase our generosity, that everything we say
and do might show forth your irrepressible
love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:

Living and Loving God, we are thankful for the call we have heard to be your people, the agents of your love in the world. The sense of belonging to such a people, dedicated to the living out of your love, gives our lives meaning that goes beyond our significance as individuals.

So our lives are enriched and fulfilled by your relationship with us, by our belonging to you in a special way.

And yet we remember also those who are lonely this day; those who have no sense of belonging anywhere in their lives.

We think of those who have never found other people to whom they can give themselves in trust and commitment.

We think of those who are isolated from others by sickness and pain, or by sorrow and hurt too deep to share.

We think of those who have lost all zest for living, all reasons for continuing to live.

Open us up, O God; sweep away our defenses of reserve and inhibition by which we will ourselves respond until our hearts are broken by the things that break the heart of God.

Then take up those shattered pieces, mend and reshape them with your love and fill them with fresh understanding and compassion, so that we build relationship in the place of pity, sharing in the place of sympathy.

So make us more truly the people of your name, ever ready to share our belonging with all those who will respond to your call, to search for and follow your will, until our living reflects your purpose, that all people know that they belong to the family of a people under a Loving God.

God of compassion, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 649) *"Walk with me"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

As we go forth, let us give thanks and glory to God.

**Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the church, and in Christ Jesus,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

CHORAL BLESSING (VU 963)

"May the grace of Christ attend us"

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**Celebrate God's Presence, A Book of Services, 2000;
Seasons of the Spirit-Seasons FUSION 1 2019;
Worship for an Easter People; Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for
Year C, Volume 2, Trinity Sunday Through Reign of Christ
Worship Companion; The United Church of Canada Pentecost . 1
2019 Year C Gathering Resources for Worship Planners.
Used with permission.*

NEXT WEEK'S (AUGUST 11, 2019) READINGS:

*Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16;
Luke 12:32-40.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome:

Welcome to worship here today. Whether you are worshipping with us today for the first time or you have been here before or longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Sometimes you may be invited to stand and you want to stay sitting, or you might feel comfortable standing but no one else is. Do what feels right and comfortable for you.

We each bring something of ourselves to worship, and it enhances the experience for each of us. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is, God, through us, welcomes you to worship. Please remember to sign our guest book at the entrance of the church, and 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 is closed for Holidays – Reopens Tuesday, August 27th.

Rev. Emmanuel's Office Hours & Contact Information

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Office Number: 306.752.4312 Cell Number: 306.930.4093

For emergency pastoral care call 306.930.4093

Confirmation / Transfer or Applying for Membership

If you want your child to be confirmed or you wish to transfer or apply for membership in our church, please contact the church office or a member of the Membership Committee.

Membership Recognition Service

There will be a membership recognition service on Sunday, August 18th. Those of you wishing to be recognized as full members of Melfort United Church please contact Rev. Emmanuel or a member of the Membership Committee.

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, August 25th

A congregational meeting to discuss the Community of Faith Profile will be held Sunday, August 25th. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service. Members of the JNAC committee and Dave Whalley (Living Skies Regional Council) will be present.

Do you have questions about the report? We welcome and encourage you to submit them beforehand. If you choose to, you can email your question(s) to Don Meier (don.meier@gmail.com) or the church office (melfortuc@sasktel.net), or drop them off at the church office by August 21st. We encourage everyone to attend.

Parking Lot Across the Street

We can no longer use the parking lot across the street for parking **except on Sundays!!!**. The new owners asked us **not to use it during the week**.

Fall Newsletter

The Fall Newsletter will be coming out soon. All people wishing to contribute to the newsletter are asked to get their submissions in by 9am on Thursday, August 29th. Submissions can be dropped off at the church office or emailed to melfortuc@sasktel.net.

Fall Service Announcements

Sunday, Sept 8th – Sunday School resumes. Noon lunch (ham, baked potatoes and yummy, seasonal vegetables will be served).
Sunday, Sept 22nd - "Gather in September" - a special Sunday to welcome those who have been away during summer months.
Mark your calendars.

FundScrip

The next FundScrip order date will be Thursday, September 26th, 2019. The order will be available for pick up on Thursday, October 3rd.

Stewardship Seconds

How we spend our money reflects our priorities; we can choose to make changes, large or small, to reflect the priorities of God's Kingdom.