



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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

Ministers: All of us

Worship Leader: Peggy George, Cheryl Sproule

Music: Tracey Smetaniuk

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Yvonne Stevenson

Scripture Readers: Marlene Stevenson, Don Neher

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**August 6, 2017**

**Ninth 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:**

People of God, look around.

**Here in this place we come face to face with the people of this church community, the Body of Christ alive and active in the world.**

**Here we meet God face to face in the telling of the stories of our faith, in recalling the deeds of the community of saints, in the sacrament of bread and wine, in confession offered and forgiveness granted.**

**Here as the spirit dances around and within us we encounter God as the word made flesh and we are held in grace.**

**Come, let us worship God.**

**HYMN (VU 660):** *"How Firm a Foundation"*

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Like a hungry crowd,  
**we come to be fed.**

Like an anxious child,  
**we come to be comforted.**

Like a forlorn friend,  
**we come seeking kindness.**

Like an agitated mob,  
**we come demanding answers.**

Like a refugee,  
**we come needing a home.**

Like a joyous bride,  
**we come to share our joy.**

Like a newborn babe,  
**we come with hearts and minds open to all that life offers.**

Like pilgrims of old,  
**we come looking for truth.**

Here we reach out to grasp your hand, here we meet you face-to-face  
**and we are glad. Amen.**

**HYMN (MV 194):** *"Bread of Life, Feed My Soul"*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:** *(in unison)*

**God of steadfast love, some days are not easy, and we do not  
always find our way to you.**

**We can struggle with much of the injustice and callous  
accounting we see in the world,  
and we wrestle with how we might intercede in  
compassionate and meaningful ways.**

**We can be caught in the grip of despair, anxious and hurting,  
unable to find a place of rest and peace.**

**We are tricked into false moves by devious people with  
insincere words and promises.**

**We tussle with our neighbours and allow petty arguments  
and misdemeanors to take more energy and commitment than  
they deserve,**

and we grapple with knowing what our faith should look like as it is lived out in the world.

At times we feel pinned to the ground and hopeless to do anything,

and we release our hold on the things that are life giving, and grasp on to the things that are destructive and toxic.

We give in to fear and exhaustion as we strain to understand the all-encompassing nature of your kindness.

We lose strength, and let go of you.

Forgive us.

Amen.

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God never lets us go. God is saving all of us by divine grace, no exceptions. Good and bad, faithful and unfaithful, certain and uncertain, agitators and peacemakers, battlers and cruisers, faultfinders and bright sparks, the strong and the weak, strugglers and the easy going, however we are, whatever we do, we are all saved, in spite of ourselves, by the generous compassion that is at the heart of God.

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

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

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (MV 183):** *"I'm Gonna Shout, Shout"*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**Psalm 17:1-7, 15 (VU p. 739)**

*Guard me as the apple of your eye.*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Genesis 32:22-31**

*Jacob wrestles with God.*

**Romans 9:1-5**

*I am speaking the truth in Christ.*

**Matthew 14:13-21**

*Feeding more than five thousand.*

**SERMON:**

## **OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING:**

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

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

**God of grace,**

**you open your arms wide as you welcome  
all of creation into your merciful kindness.**

**Remind us, your people, of our call to be peacemakers  
and advocates for a universal justice  
that reflects your coming reign of goodwill and compassion.  
Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

God of all, as we pray for our world and all that dwell in it,  
we grasp hold of you and each other knowing that strength comes  
from community and faith, and that we encounter you as we pray  
together.

**For those struggling to find a safe home, we pray.**

**For those who wrestle with illness and infirmity, we pray.**

**For those who struggle to gain an education and for those  
who are unable to find meaningful work, we pray.**

**For those who do not have safe water and enough to eat,  
we pray.**

**For those who live in conflict, we pray.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

## **SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (MV 195):** *“Long Ago and Far Away”*

### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

God never lets us go – we are eternally held in the loving embrace of God: Creator, Saviour, and Spirit. Go with this assurance to meet God face-to-face in the world. **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 – Seasons FUSION 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 (August 13, 2017) Reading (s):**

*Colossians 3:16-17*

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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**

**Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

@2 pm - Funeral service celebrating the life of Velma Campbell.

**Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

The church office will be closed on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**A Special Thank You to Gale Strachan**

Gale we want to thank you for all of the time you spend here tending to our flower beds. It is very much appreciated.

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

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

Charles McKenzie and Carol Beal McKenzie @ 306.863.2999

**Women's Retreat – Camp Tapawingo**

Ladies - you are invited to join in the Women's Retreat  
– August 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>,

Register by August 15<sup>th</sup> – call Anne McIntosh @ 306.752.4042 or Mary Mohn @ 306.749.3446

**UCW General Meeting**

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

**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***

*God knows our weaknesses and blesses us with love just the same. Can we, as stewards, do any less for others?*