



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: Tracey Smetaniuk
Music Director: Mavis Peters
Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk
Caretaker: Faye Greier
Today's Greeter: Rick Peters
Scripture Readers: Marlene Stevenson, Grace Wilton

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 1, 2019
First Sunday of Advent Year A
[HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE]

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:

In Advent we celebrate God's gift of a new beginning.

We praise you, O God of new beginnings, for turning despair into hope.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

We praise you, O God, for bringing cosmos out of chaos.

In the beginning the Word was with God, chasing the darkness into the day.

We praise you, O God, for bringing light out of night. Let us bear witness to the light that was with God in the beginning. Let us bear witness to the light that became flesh in Jesus Christ.

HYMN (VU 1) *"O come, O come Emmanuel"*

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving God, speak to us gently at this coming of Jesus time, for his presence touches our hearts;

tell us of his lowly birth in utter powerlessness, remind us of his healing touch for the distressed.

Speak to us gently;

bring to mind his heartening words to the poor, his comfort to those despised and rejected.

Speak to us gently;

recall for us the way Jesus weaves people together into faith community.

Speak to us gently;

bring home his message of hope for our own tough times.

Loving God, speak to us gently at this coming of Jesus time,
and grant to us all, faithful listening. Amen.

ADVENT 1A CANDLE LIGHTING: Candle of Hope

In this season of expectant waiting, we wonder
and we hope.

So many marvels. So much that confounds us. So much that is unique. So much richness. So many things we can touch, taste, smell, see, hear.

Hope rises within us.

Look at life, abundant in growing complexities and with bewildering intricacies. Look at the variety! Look how they work together - connected.

Hope bubbles to the surface.

We bask in wonder at God's creativity, at blessings showered abundantly -

while hope flames into promise.

(The first Advent candle is lit).

Sung Response (VU 6) "A candle is burning" - verse 1

HYMN (VU 7) "Hope is a star"

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

God, for the sake of well-being,

**I seek forgiveness for the ways I have failed to love myself
as you love me.**

For the sake of loved ones,

**I seek forgiveness for the ways I have failed to bring out
the best in others and myself.**

For the sake of community,

**I seek forgiveness for the ways I have worked against
peace and goodwill.**

For the sake of all my relations,

**I seek forgiveness for the ways I have failed to tread lightly
on Earth.**

For the sake of God,

**I seek forgiveness for the ways I have failed to build your
peaceable kin-dom. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Each day of prayer and love brings us closer to God's grace and
glory.

Do not lose heart as you put Christ into all your actions.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 99) "Stand, O stand firm"

CHOIR ANTHEM: "O Come to Us Emmanuel" – J. Martin

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 221) "I am walking a path of peace"

A NEW CREED (VU p.918):

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING: **PSALM 122 (VU p.845):**

With joy to God's house.

HEBREW:

ISAIAH 2:1-5:

Swords into ploughshares.

GOSPEL:

MATTHEW 24:36-44:

No one knows the hour.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 55)

"In the bleak midwinter" - verse 4

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

O God, accept this money offered, accept our gifts given, accept the good will of our hearts for those who will receive, so that:

disappointment may be replaced by joy, worry may be replaced by happiness, hopelessness may be replaced by a sense of purpose, rejection may be replaced by acceptance, and an ordinary meal may become a feast.

Bless all our gifts, for we await with wonder the birth of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:

HYMN (VU 468) *"Let us talents and tongues employ"*

COMMUNION LITURGY:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eternal God, we praise and thank you for the joy and love of this season. For when there is no way your light shines in the darkness. In our lives and in our world you keep us from ruin and despair by your love and mercy.

We thank you for the friends we have known, for the families we have been a part of, and for the strangers who have shown us your will and your way.

Holy God, we praise and thank you for the joy and love of this season. For when we are surrounded by violence and strife you remind us of a better way. In our lives and in our world you call us to be agents of compassion and examples of grace.

We thank you for the times we feel your grace rest upon us, for the words which stir our souls, and for the actions which lift our spirits.

Loving God, we come to this table as the people of Jesus Christ. For you have called us to be the church, to offer you our praise, to receive your blessings, and to go out into the world in your name.

You have charged us with the task of bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. You call us to holiness and peace in order to send us back into the world to share the words and actions of love.

We gather around your table to taste again the goodness of your promises and the truth of your way. We have come to be renewed and refreshed at your table, to share in your blessings so we might be your blessing to the world.

For on the night before Jesus went to the cross, he broke bread with his disciples. He also took the cup and offered it with his friends. And as he shared it with those around the table, Jesus told them:

“This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me. This is my blood which is poured out for you. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

We come to break bread and drink wine with the risen Christ. We come to remember and to rejoice in his life, death, and resurrection. We come to recommit ourselves as his disciples.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup. Let us eat this bread and taste the bread of life. Let us drink from this cup and taste the cup of salvation. Let us receive the gifts you have provided, for we ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

BREAKING THE BREAD AND FILLING THE CUP:

The bread which we break

is our sharing in the life of Christ.

The cup for which we give thanks

is our sharing in the life of Christ.

In the breaking of this bread and the pouring of this cup, we remember the brokenness within ourselves. We pray for the day when we shall, each one, enter fully into the wholeness of Jesus Christ.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP:

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

Please say as you pass the bread and cup to your neighbour:
“The Bread of Life,” for bread and **“The Cup of Blessing,”** for cup.

COMMUNION ANTHEMS:

HYMN (MV 202) *“Bread for the journey”*

HYMN (VU 471) *“Eat this bread and never hunger”*

HYMN (VU 469) *“We gather here (Come, share the Lord)”*

HYMN (VU 480) *“Let us break bread together”*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: *(in unison)*

**Gracious God,
may your gifts of love transform and enliven us
that we may live lives of thanksgiving.
May your presence among us
provoke such longing for your realm,
that we will never be satisfied
until the whole earth knows
your justice, your peace, and your love.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 682) *"O day of peace"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Awaken to the light of Christ around you,
in nature, in friends, in all my relations.
Awaken to the light of Christ between us,
in relationships, in bonds, in fellowship and kinship.
Awaken to the light of Christ within you,
in gifts, in my love, in my instinct and being.
Awaken to the light of Christ,
may it bless and guide us always. Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING *"My peace" - K. Routledge*

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**Seasons of the Spirit -SeasonsFUSION Advent,
Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020; Celebrate God's
Presence, A Book of Services 2000;
All Things Are Ready, Communion in Prayers
for the Church Year and Pastoral Occasions;
Prayers to Share Year A, Responsive Prayers
for each Sunday of the Church Year;
The United Church Advent, Christmas,
Epiphany 2019-2020 Year Gathering Resources
for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

NEXT WEEK'S (DECEMBER 8, 2019) READINGS:

Isaiah 11:1-10;
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15:4-13;
Matthew 3:1-12.

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

Tuesday, December 3rd

@ 7 pm – Women Alive

Wednesday, December 4th

@ 4:40 – Worship Committee Meeting

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, December 5th

@ 10:30 – Bible Study

@ 4:15 – Bell Choir

Saturday, December 7th

@ 2 – 4pm - Christmas Tea & Bazaar

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.

Changes to Contact Information

If you've changed your address or phone number please advise the Church Office so that we can keep your information current.
Thank you!

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelope packages for 2020 are on the table in the CE foyer.

December Noon Lunch

The noon lunch in December is on Sunday, December 8th.
The M&P Committee is in charge of it!

71st Rotary Carol Festival

The Rotary Carol Festival is Sunday, December 8th. There is *only one* performance this year @ 2 pm.

Fall Supper Proceeds

We made \$5,187.56 after all the expenses were paid on the fall supper.
Thank you to everyone that made this such a success!

Scott Woods Show Proceeds

We made \$2,265.00 on the Scott Woods Christmas Show on November 16th. Thank you to all of you who helped make this another successful show!

Music, Music, Music – Don't Miss a Sunday!!!

December 8th – “Where is Christmas” – J. Ray
December 15th - “Touched by a Child” - J. Purifoy
December 22nd – “Celebrate this Christmas Day” – acapella -
Ciereau/Liebergen

Renewal time for your subscription for the Broadview (Observer)

Stop by the office by December 12th to pay the \$25 annual subscription fee.

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FundScrip

The next FundScrip order date will be Thursday, December 5th. The order will be available for pick up on Thursday, December 12th. This will be the last FundScrip order in time for Christmas.

Salvation Army Kettles

The schedule for the Salvation Army kettles is out and the United Church is scheduled to work December 17th & 18th at the Co-op from 10:00 to 4:30. If you are able to take a shift at the kettles, please see the signup sheet in the foyer.

Hey knitters out there!

The Naomi Unit is planning another mitten tree for Christmas Giving this year. If you are an avid knitter, hand knit mittens would be wonderful, but any size children's mittens would be gratefully accepted. The tree will be set up in the foyer to display the mittens. Close to Christmas these items will be donated to a worthy cause.

Christmas Tea & Bazaar

December 7th, 2019, Christian Education Centre, 2 – 4 pm
There is a box on the CE stage for your donations to the “New To You” Table. A volunteer signup sheet is on the easel in the CE foyer.

White Gift Sunday and PJ's **Sunday December 15th**

The annual Salvation Army toy drive is on and we are collecting unwrapped gifts for them. The Hadwen sisters are collecting pajamas for the Salvation Army hampers as well.
All donations can be left in the vestibule.

UCW Annual Report & Annual Congregational Report

If you have a submission/report for either of the 2019 Annual Reports please email or drop it off at the church office by
Thursday, January 2nd, 2020.

Stewardship Seconds

*Let us remember the gifts we have received from God, and
in our turn become God's giving hands in this world.*