



## 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)

Worship Time: 10:30 AM

Ministers: All of us

Worship Leader: Melfort United Church Youth

Music: Jodi Allen Corbett

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrators: Denise Todosichuk and Mavis Busby

Caretaker: Faye Greier

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Second Sunday of Advent, Year B**  
*[White Gift Sunday]*

### 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:**

God of peace,

During this advent season, we share our thoughts about the meaning of this season with our parents, grandparents, family and friends. As we gather together, help us to remember to share peace, hope, joy and live during this time of waiting.

### LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

*(Candles #1 & #2 are lit)*

Welcome to week 2 of Advent!

This week we will continue the season by lighting the Candle of Hope,

**and we will light the Candle of Peace too.**

What do you think “peace” is...?

People have been hoping for that for a long time.

What are some things that stop peace from happening....?

In Bible times, people hoped for peace.

**And the prophets told about God’s promise  
that someday peace would really happen for everyone.**

The prophets talked about that special Leader God would send—  
a leader who would be called the Prince of Peace.

Here’s what the prophet Isaiah said:

*A child has been born for us! And one of his names will be  
Prince of Peace! He will keep the kingdom going with fair  
dealing and right living, beginning now and lasting always.  
(Paraphrased for Isaiah 9:6 in “the Message”)*

**Sung Response (VU 7) “Hope is a Star”** - verses 1&2

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

**We are a people who dream, who long for peace.**

**We are thankful for the gracious gifts of God.**

**We know that God does great things in our midst.**

**We are thankful for the gracious gifts of God.**

**God has given us neighbours, near and far, to love.**

**We are thankful for the gracious gifts of God.**

**As we gather and grow, give and receive...**

**We give in thanks for God’s unfailing love.**

**HYMN (VU 38) “Angels We Have Heard On High”**

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

**Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** “*You Raise Me Up*” by Secret Garden and Rolf Lovelend. Performed by Megan McAvoy. Accompanist Tracey Smetaniuk

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US**

### **MINUTES FOR MISSION:**

Keely - When I was little, I saw a news story about a child in the Maritimes who collected Pajamas for kids who didn’t have any at Christmas. I remember feeling sad to think that some kids wouldn’t have new pajamas to wear at Christmas time.

Alia - Since then, we have worked with the congregation and the Melfort community to collect pajamas at Christmas. The pajamas are distributed to kids in the community through the Salvation army hampers.

Keely - We have collected hundreds of pairs of pajamas over the years.

Alia - Thank you for continuing to support families in Melfort through this project.

### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

#### **GOSPEL READING:**

**MARK 1:1-8**

*The preaching of John the baptizer.*

**SERMON** Available at: [https://youtu.be/wT\\_W4ODSY-M](https://youtu.be/wT_W4ODSY-M)

Our message today is a play entitled “A Pandemic Christmas”, written by Deborah Laforet and featuring us, the Melfort United Church Youth. The play has been pre-recorded and is uploaded to YouTube for you to watch following the service. If it does not come through clearly for you at this time, you can find this link posted as part of this live stream, in the email of the church bulletin, or on the church website.

**HYMN (VU 73) “The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy”**

## **OUR RESPONSE**

### **OFFERING:**

For our offering time together, we ask you to reconsider your givings to our church and community. Due to pandemic conditions, we have not been able to hold our regular fundraisers this year. Without our Garage Sales, Fall Supper, Scott Woods Concert, and other general fundraisers, our fundraising is down 77%, yet our church expenses continue. With your love and support, we can continue to grow the message and community of our church so that when we meet again, we can heal and grow together.

*(Please use the offering box at the front/back of the Sanctuary as you exit. Thank you!)*

### **OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 55)**

*“In the bleak midwinter” - verse 4*

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**Thank you, God, for helping us help others.  
Please accept these gifts that we bring and share  
with our love. We pray that others will receive these  
gifts and know that they are loved. Amen**

## **PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:**

Loving God, being thankful for the freedom we have in Canada, we ask that the children of the world have clean water, healthy food, a home, and feel safe.

Let the people in Melfort and area receive what they need and ensure they're safe and happy this Christmas and all year round.

Guide us in our giving and show us how we can help.

Guide us with the light of love.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

### **SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU 43)** *"Go Tell It On The Mountain"*

## **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Dear God, Thank you for all the fun and excitement of Christmas. Thank you for the amazing nativity story that tells us about the birth of Jesus. Thank you for sending us your Son, a gift from you into this world. As we look at the lights on the tree, remind us of the light Jesus brought to this Earth. When we sing songs and carols, remind us of the hope Jesus showed everyone. And as we open the gifts and presents, remind us that Jesus was the best gift ever. Help us to share special times with family and friends this Christmas, And to share the light, hope and gift of Jesus to the world. **Amen.**

**CHORAL BLESSING** *"When You Go From This Place"*

- P. Mayberry & D. Kai

## **PRAYER RESOURCES:**

*\*Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Advent • Christmas • Epiphany 2020–2021; The United Church of Canada Advent • Christmas • Epiphany 2020-2021, Year B, Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

[https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/christmas\\_prayer.html](https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/christmas_prayer.html)

<https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/family-prayers-and-blessings.pdf>  
[https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2020-11/au\\_hidden-gift-sunday\\_worship.docx](https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2020-11/au_hidden-gift-sunday_worship.docx)

### **NEXT WEEK'S (December 13, 2020 – Advent 3) READINGS**

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*  
*Psalms 126;*  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;*  
*John 1:6-8, 19-28.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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#### **THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH**

Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

@7 pm – Choir

Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

@10 am - Pastoral Care

#### **Pastoral Care - Contact Information**

Should you need emergency pastoral care please call Ron Nielsen  
@ 306-921-7794 or 306-752-4119.

#### **Transfer or Applying for Membership**

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

#### **Offering Envelopes**

Due to Covid we are not putting envelope packages for 2021  
out in the foyer. If you are out of envelopes, please stop  
by the office and pick some up.

**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, December 31st.

**Renewal time for your subscription for the Broadview  
(Observer)**

Stop by the office by December 17<sup>th</sup> to pay the \$25 annual subscription fee.

**Mittens, Mittens, Mittens!**

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.

*Stewardship Seconds*

*Stewards trust that God will replenish what has been given freely, and so dare to be wellsprings for others.*