



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: Jodi Allen

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Kim Eskowich

Scripture Readers: Cheryl Sproule, Gina McAvoy

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 8th, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent Year A
[SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM]

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:

Today is the second Sunday of Advent.

Today is the day we light a candle for peace.

Peace - much needed in our world!

This is one of the reasons we have come to bring our longing for peace: for our world, for ourselves, and for those we love.

A part of our Advent waiting is waiting for peace.

We are waiting to welcome the One who is the Prince of Peace - Jesus.

[Written by Kim Falls, Advent, Christmas,
Epiphany 2019-2020 Year A Gathering, page 29].

HYMN (VU 2) *"Come, thou long expected Jesus"*

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

**God of peace,
in the gathering of your people,
in the fellowship that we share,
in the reading of scripture,
and the reflection on the word,
in the praying and singing of your people,
and in the beauty of this privilege,
we ask that we may grow in greater love
with you and with each other. Amen.**

ADVENT 2A CANDLE LIGHTING: PEACE

(Light the first purple candle, the candle of hope).

In this season of expectant waiting, we fear the conflict all around us

as we long for peace.

So many wars. So much destruction. Too many deaths. Too much loss. So much money wasted. So many lives spent. Too much tragedy spread.

God's goodness commands us to work for peace.

We revere the goodness that celebrates uniqueness, that enlivens pleasure, that preserves treasures between strangers, between friends, between enemies.

As we come close to each other, we notice in each face the reason for harmony - while peace flames into reserve.

(The second Advent candle is lit).

Sung Response (VU 6) *"A candle is burning" - verse 2*

HYMN (VU 20) *"On Jordan's bank"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

This is the path we will follow, O God,

the path of John the Baptist, prophet and visionary.

When with the crowd, we are following the way of ease and self-interest,

give us the courage to speak out and act justly.

When with the Pharisees and Sadducees, we are self-centered and self-righteous,

help us to discover humility and compassion.

When with the crowds, we are amazed that John would single out Jesus,

**give us the faith to acknowledge, and to follow,
your Anointed One.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

The Good News is that we are a forgiven people, restored, beloved by God, free to love.

Thanks be to God.

*[Written by H. Roy White, Worship for Seasons II
Selections from Gathering - Year A, page 30].*

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

CHOIR ANTHEM *"Where is Christmas" – J. Ray*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(see insert)

HYMN (VU 644) *"I was there to hear your borning cry"*

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING: **PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 (VU p.790
- Parts One and Three):**

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A just ruler.

HEBREW READING:

ISAIAH 11: 1-10:

The peaceable reign of God.

EPISTLE READING:

ROMANS 15:4-13:

The root of Jesse and hope of Gentiles.

GOSPEL READING:

MATTHEW 3:1-12:

John the Baptist preaches.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 55)

"In the bleak midwinter" - verse 4

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

John was ready to change his lifestyle.

John was not afraid to take on the powerful.

John spoke directly of the evil he saw.

John saw that unfaithfulness to God had consequences.

John recognized God's chosen one, Jesus.

With humility, John made way for Jesus.

Loving God,

as we present our Advent gifts, our time, our talent, and our money, enable us, with humility, to liberate our prophetic spirit and that of our church. Amen.

[Written by David Sparks, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020 Year A Gathering, page 35].

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Sovereign God, we long for your peaceable Kin-dom: a place where children can play outside without fear of predators, where the vulnerable are not exploited for their labour, where there is enough for all.

We long for a world without the 1%, and without the exploiters, the vultures, and abusers; a world where everyone will know your peace and love.

Until then, we are trapped in a world where fear, pain, and suffering is inevitable, but where comfort can always be found in your love.

Surround those of us who are suffering from the ills of this world, and send all as messengers of your love, grace, and peace wherever and whenever possible. May those who are conflicted find comfort in those who are comfortable, and those who are comfortable be with the conflicted until all are at peace. We join these prayers together in the prayer that Jesus taught...

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU p. 884) *"You shall go out with joy"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

With us in our highest aspirations and most treasured dreams, with us in our most tragic setbacks, with us in our deepest struggles: journey with us now, God of the Advent season.

Deepen our faith, show us the faithful way, keep us faithfully on the way, that we may respond to the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The Prince of Peace.

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

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**Seasons of the Spirit - Seasons FUSION Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020; Litanies and Other Prayers for the Common Lectionary Year A; Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship; The United Church of Canada Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

NEXT WEEK'S (DECEMBER 15th) READINGS:

*Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55;
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.*

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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.

Congratulations to *Clara Fahlman*, daughter of Jessica and Tyler Fahlman on being baptized today!

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

Wednesday, December 11th

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, December 12th

@ 10:30 – Bible Study

@ 4:15 – Bell Choir

Friday, December 13th

@ 10 pm – Pastoral Care

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.

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

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.

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.

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 Heavin's 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

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