



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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

Website: www.melfortunitedchurch.com

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: Gale Strachan

Scripture Readers: Dorothy Busby, Gina McAvoy

ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 16, 2020
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 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:

God, we gather in your house to worship you.

With open hearts, we give you our thanks and praise.

Guide us in all we do as we come seeking you.

With happy hearts, we give you our thanks and praise.

Help us to grow as a community of faith who serves with love in your name.

With whole hearts, we give you our thanks and praise.

Come, let us joyfully worship and adore the living God who makes all things possible.

HYMN (VU 232) *“Joyful, joyful we adore you”*

OPENING PRAYER

God, we come before you today knowing that you are a God who gathers us near. In the morning light, you shine a generous glow over the earth.

In the fertile soil, you bless the earth with colourful flowers and fresh aromas.

You are present in every colour of the rainbow.

Your love shines through your creativity and is beyond measure. When we sing and play and dance, you dance alongside us.

When we stumble and fall, you send someone to lift us up. When our hearts are heavy, and we grieve, your tears flow with ours. Receive us as we are, here and now. We are here with open arms and open hearts.

Help us to receive your compassionate care in each of our ages and stages of life. Be with us in our worship as we gather together, drawing near to your presence. Amen.

HYMN (VU 220) *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

Bring us together, Loving God; show us the path to reconciliation.

Where hasty words have hurt, bring us together in peace to give and accept apology.

Bring us together, Loving God, show us the path to reconciliation.

Where the sting of rejection has caused hard feelings, bring us together with friendship to make a fresh start.

Bring us together, Loving God, show us the path to reconciliation.

Where life has been smooth sailing for one and hard for another, bring us together to listen to the stories, and to support those sorely tested.

Bring us together, Loving God, show us the path to reconciliation.

Where division has split the Christian Community, bring us together with faith, to pray and to work together.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

God sweeps into the human scene, redeeming
all who turn from evil to good.

There is grace, mercy, and renewed strength
for all who earnestly seek the new life Christ brings.

Let us rejoice together, for even the stones cry out
with good news. God forgives.

We are freed from the burden of our sin. Praise God!

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 81) “Love us into fullness”

- All verses

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (VU 343) “I love to tell the story”

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING: PSALM 119:1-8 (VU p.838 Part One):

*Happy are those who walk in
God’s ways.*

HEBREW READING: DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20:

Choose life.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 5:21-37:

*Teachings on anger, adultery,
divorce, and oaths.*

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 540)

“Grant us, God, the grace”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks,
so that together we may plant and water the
seeds of your new world.**

**May we be your faithful servants as we cultivate
your love, knowing that in all we accomplish,
it is you who gives the growth. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

We pray for the health and vitality of the church: You command us to honour you by loving one another, yet all too often there is quarreling and jealousy among us. Help us to live your law of love as we seek to grow into the full stature of Christ.

Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

We pray for the welfare of the world: You have blessed us with every skill and gift for nurturing the common good, yet our self-centered ways incline our hearts toward evil. Strengthen us to work together for the mutual benefit of neighbours near and far and for the life and prosperity of your reign on earth.

Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

We pray for the well-being of your creation: Our choices wreak havoc on the world you have made and put your planet in peril. Guide our patterns of consumption for the flourishing of all creation and for generations yet unborn.

Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

We pray for all who suffer and are in need: You call us to care for one another with compassion and steadfast love, yet we wither in the face of anguish and brokenness. Equip us for the work of reconciliation that we might offer hope and healing in the power of your name.

Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

We pray for all who are sick and are dying: We pray for those who are suffering from the coronavirus pandemic wherever they are in the world. We pray for all the health workers – nurses, physicians and all who are doing their all and best to find the cure for that virus and many other deadly diseases. Be their protection and guide them with your wisdom and know-how that may lead to best results. Strengthen and inspire courage into all who care or look after the sick and all in mental or physical pain. May your will for them be fulfilled. Fill us with your mercy and kindness that we may care for them with loving hearts as you bring them to the wholeness of your peace.

Loving God, help us to turn our hearts toward you.

We commend all of life to you, O God, knowing that you hear our prayers and answer them according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught his followers to pray saying,

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (MV 176) *“Three things I promise”*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

We go forth in faith,
choosing to deepen our discipleship in Jesus,
choosing to open our eyes to the needs that are around us,
choosing to put apathy aside, willing to get involved,
choosing to joyfully work with others in the enterprise
of faith, choosing life. We go out in peace to serve God.

CHORAL BLESSING *“My Peace”* – K. Routledge

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020; Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 Advent through Pentecost Worship Companion; Prayers to Share Year A, Responsive Prayers for each*

Sunday of the Church Year; The United Church of Canada Worship for All Seasons II, Selections from Gathering Year A, and Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.

NEXT WEEK'S (FEBRUARY 23, 2020) READINGS:

Exodus 24:12-18;
Psalm 99;
2 Peter 1:16-21;
Matthew 17:1-9.

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. 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, February 18th
@ 7 pm – Women Alive
Thursday, February 20th
@ 10:30 – Bible Study

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

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

Thank you!

FundScrip Deadline for February

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, February 27th. The gift cards will be ready for pickup on Thursday, March 5th.

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

February 23rd – *“How Does This Moment Last Forever”* –
Rice/Menken – features Mavis and Tracey

Sunday School Announcement

There *will be no Sunday School* on February 23rd due to the school holiday.

The Carillons

Bell Choir starts up again on February 27th and will continue from there on as usual.

Board Members for 2020

Calling for Board Members – please consider serving a term. If you are interested please call Don Meier (863-4379) or Chris Corbett (921-4131). Signup sheets for each board committee are on the easel in the CE foyer.

MUC Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, March 1st

The annual congregational meeting is Sunday, March 1st. The meeting and service will be followed by a cold potluck lunch.

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Official Tax Receipts for 2019

The official tax receipts for 2019 are ready for pick up.
Please ask Cheryl or Kim for your receipt!

Sunday, February 16th, 2020

Evening Hymn Sing, 7 pm. @ Emmanuel Baptist Church

Stewardship Seconds

Generosity brings the abundant life.