



## 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)

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: Gale Strachan

Scripture Readers: Yvonne Stevenson, Eileen Brooks

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**February 9, 2020**

**Fifth Sunday after the 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:**

People of God, rejoice in God's presence!

**As we praise and pray, God is with us.**

People of God, rejoice in this faith community!

**As we support each other, as we reach out a helping hand, God is with us.**

People of God, rejoice in your Christian faith!

**As we follow the way of Jesus, as we proclaim his Good News, God is with us.**

**HYMN (VU 87) "I am the light of the world"**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

God in Christ has shown us the beauty of holiness.

**We come now to express our gratitude to God with our best gifts.**

What are these gifts?

**Our prayers, our praise, and the gifts of our hands.**

These gifts we should offer unto the Lord, but these are not all the Lord asks. The Lord also asks that we break the yoke of tyranny and let the oppressed go free.

**We would do all that the Lord asks.**

The Lord asks that we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and house the homeless.

**We would do all that the Lord asks.**

The Lord asks that we attend the afflicted and give ourselves for those in need.

**We would do all that the Lord asks.**

Then our light shall rise at midnight and our gloom be as the noonday.

**We would do all that the Lord asks. Amen.**

## **HYMN (MV 79) “*Spirit, open my heart*”**

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

**You call us to be the light of the world, O God,  
but we doubt that we are able.**

**You ask us to share your light with those in need,  
but we want to keep it to ourselves – the warmth,  
the comfort – why give it away?**

**At other times, we keep you at such distance that we sink  
into shadows of our own making,  
so dense that we cannot even see a glimmer of hope.**

**We need you. We ask for your forgiveness.**

**Come to us now and remind us that Christ’s gift of grace  
is all we need to do your good works  
and all we need to be your light in the world. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Jesus said: “I am the light of the world – whoever follows me will have the light of life.” Friends, we walk in Christ’s light,

freed from sin and illuminated by God's grace.

**Thanks be to God for this glorious gift of new life!**

**Amen and amen!**

**PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 115)**

*"Behold, behold, I make all things new"*

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *"Forever Praise"* – J. Martin

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

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (VU 585)** *"Jesus bids us shine"*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**RESPONSORIAL READING:**

**PSALM 112:1-10 (VU p.834):**

*Delight in God's commandments.*

**HEBREW READING:**

**ISAIAH 58:1-12:**

*The fast that God chooses.*

**GOSPEL READING:**

**MATTHEW 5:13-20:**

*You are salt, you are light.*

**SERMON:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING:**

## OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 540)

*“Grant us, God, the grace”*

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

God of every good gift, we stand before you,  
bathed in your brilliance and warmed by your love,  
so grateful for the blessings you have generously  
given us. Receive our offerings, to help  
bring about your reign – where your light cannot be  
hidden and where our good works will give you glory.  
We ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Glorious and gracious God, you are light. You are love. You are the one without whom life would have no flavour, no meaning.

We give you thanks that we have seen your light and have been blessed by your love, and that we have been called to share this light and love with your world.

Come Holy Spirit, and hear our prayers:

Where conflicts rage, shine your light of peace.

Where poverty imprisons, shine your light of freedom.

Where disease and hunger ravage, shine your light of compassion.

Shine the light of wisdom and judgment on the leaders of all nations.

Shine the light of justice on governments throughout our land.

Shine the light of thoughtfulness and service on the citizens of this community.

When we hide from your light, give us courage.

When we hide our light from others, break open our hearts that your light may shine through us.

We bring prayers before you this day: our gratitude, our hopes, and our worries spoken and unspoken, as we pray especially for all those family members and friends that are going through tough times in their lives because of sickness, economic downturn, social distress, and many more not named now.

We lay these before you now, trusting that you will hear and answer in your own time. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

**HYMN (VU 646)** “*We are marching in the light of God*”

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Go be the salt of the earth – give  
flavour and meaning to each and every day.

Go be the light on the hill – dare to share  
your love of Christ with everyone you encounter.  
Go! Be bold because it is God who empowers you.  
Be brave because it is Christ who encourages you.  
Be as brilliant as the Spirit who leads us out into  
the world to shine and to serve. Go.

**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 by Everett Tilson Phyllis Cole; Prayers to Share, Responsive Prayers for each Sunday of the Church Year, Revised Common Lectionary Based Year A; The United Church of Canada Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

**NEXT WEEK’S (FEBRUARY 16, 2020) READINGS:**

*Psalm 119:1-8;  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20;  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9;  
Matthew 5:21-37.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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*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:**

Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

@ 10:30 – Bible Study

Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

@ 10 am – 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

**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 January**

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

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

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

**Sunday School Announcement**

There *will be no Sunday School* on February 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>  
due to the school holiday.

**Come Celebrate Pat Clark's Birthday**

A 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration is being held for Pat Clark. You're invited  
to the come and go tea in her honour on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>  
from 2 – 4 pm at Diefenbaker Place.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

**Official Tax Receipts for 2019**

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

*Stewardship Seconds*

*Our God is an awesome God! How does awe inspire  
stewardship?*