



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: Jodi Allen

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Bryan Wurtz

Scripture Readers: Imogene Schick, Jean Senecal

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 12, 2020

First Sunday after the Epiphany Year A
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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:

(based on Psalm 29):

The voice of God resounds upon the water.

The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.

The Son of God is named, "Beloved."

And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"

Ascribe to the Lord Majesty and strength.

Let us worship God in holy splendor.

HYMN (VU 314) *"Come now, Almighty King"*

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

**God of the stormy seas and of the still waters,
send your spirit to be with us now.
Immerse us in your love.
Bathe us in your grace.
Call forth from us a spring of praise
and prayer. Amen.**

HYMN (VU 100) *“When Jesus comes to be baptized”*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

God has called us to come to this time of worship and confession.

**We come, O God, bearing our sins and griefs, our
disappointments and confusion.**

God calls us to come as children, open and vulnerable.

We come, O God, looking for answers, looking for love.

God calls us to come as beloved children and confess in trust and
in hope.

**We come, O God, in answer to your call, to confess and
worship you.**

*[Written by Jim Warburton, A/C/E. 2019/20
(Year A) Gathering, page 46].*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Your baptism marks you for life

as one of the people of Christ.

Christ upon you, the water of your baptism;

Christ within you, the cup of new life;

sin no more and accept the grace of the Risen One.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*[Written by Robin Wardlaw, A/C/E. 2019/20
(Year A) Gathering, page 46].*

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 85) *“Take, O take me as I am”*

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“Never Enough”* – Pasek & Paul

- Piano solo – Tracey Smetaniuk

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 92) *"Like a rock"*

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING: **PSALM 29 (VU p.756):**
Ascribe to God all glory and strength.

HEBREW READING: **ISAIAH 42:1-9:**
God's servant brings justice.

GOSPEL READING: **MATTHEW 3:13-17:**
Jesus is baptized.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 540) *"Grant us, God, the grace"*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

Mighty God, as people made new by waters of your spirit, we come to you as children.

Accept these gifts, the humble yet holy work of our hands, the humble yet holy value of our lives, the humble yet holy truth of our hearts. Fill us to the brim as you would an earthen vessel, and then keep pouring, so that our lives would overflow with your love. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Gracious God, from the moment your spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life, you have been journeying with your people. Tossed by the waters of the flood, delivered from bondage through the parting of the seas, you sustained your people and blessed them with freedom and new life. And so you sustain us. With our ancestors who led the way, with our communities throughout the world, with all those who have yet to come, we come to the waters of faith.

We come to you.

Our journeys are not easy. Sickness, loss, despair, loneliness, and fear are our constant companions. Today, we remember especially our own family members and friends that are struggling and dealing with sickness, disabilities or grieving. Some are known to us and some others are unknown to us. Healing God, visit and touch them all with your healing and comfort. We come to the waters of mercy.

We come to you.

God, our journeys are not easy. When the ways of sin and death seem overpowering, we remember how Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan and anointed with your spirit. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, Christ set us free, giving us hope that love will always overcome fear. Today, we praise you for many who have been transformed by your way, and many who follow your way of justice and compassion in the world. We come to the waters of joy.

We come to you.

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of water. Water washes us clean from the muck of our lives. Water relieves our parched spirits. Water sustains us on the long journey. Water bears us up in times of joy and gives us strength in times of sorrow. Send your Spirit on us and on our water – that all who pass through it may be filled with grace, love, and new life. We come to the waters of love.

We come to you.

O God, in your loving purpose, answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes. In all things for which we pray, give us the will to seek to bring them about. For the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 710) “*Shall we gather at the river*”

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Remember the common ties that hold you in baptism!

We recall our common participation in the community of faith.

Remember the needs that are brought home to you.

We are challenged to use our common talents to meet those needs.

Remember the wisdom of the saints who have gone before you.

We will draw on their wisdom, and take courage from their endurance.

Remember the Holy Spirit stands with you.

In the power of the Spirit, there are no obstacles that cannot be overcome!

Go out in peace to serve the Beloved Lord!

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

Prayer Resources:

**Seasons of the Spirit- Seasons FUSION Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020; Prayers to Share, Responsive Prayers for Each Sunday of the Church Year – Revised Common Lectionary based Year A; Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 Advent through Pentecost – Worship Companion; The United Church of Canada Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020 (Year A) Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

NEXT WEEK’S (SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020) READINGS:

*Isaiah 49:1-7;
Psalm 40:1-11;
1 Corinthians 1:1-9;
John 1:29-42.*

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:

Thursday, January 16th

@ 10:30 am – Bible Study

@ 12 pm – UCW annual meeting and potluck lunch

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!

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation class can begin anytime candidates are available. Please see the minister if you would like you or your child to go through baptism or confirmation process.

Offering Envelopes

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

FundScrip Deadline for January

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, January 30th. The gift cards will be ready for pickup on Thursday, February 6th.

UCW Annual Meeting – January 16th

The UCW is holding their annual meeting and potluck lunch on Thursday, January 16 @ 12 pm.

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

January 19th – “Shout the Lord” – Darlene Zschech – soloist Chris Corbett

January 26th “What a Friend we have in Jesus” – Besig & Price

Stewardship Seconds

God gives without partiality. Let us do likewise.