



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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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: Harvey Heavin

Scripture Readers: Jeanette Stevenson, Gloria Stushnoff

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 19, 2020

Second Sunday after the Epiphany Year A
[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity]

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 every morning, you call us from complacency into compassion.

We are here to sing songs of God's love and faithfulness.

You gather us into loving arms and become a shelter in difficult days.

We are here to offer our thanks and share that God is good.

You call us into this time and place with full hearts and open hands.

We embrace the world with open hearts and open eyes, offering ourselves to your radiant love.

God's light shines on all. God has chosen you. Come and see!

HYMN (VU 264) *“Immortal, invisible, God only wise”*

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

God of all time,

**you have called us to be stewards of your light and love,
to share messages of hope and healing.**

**We ask that you travel with us, God of light and life,
offering your light and love to all we meet in our daily
encounters.**

**Help us to see with eyes of compassion,
to listen with care and concern,
to respond with a passionate purpose.**

**We long to be good stewards of your light and love.
May it always be so, in our worship today and in the days
to come. Amen.**

HYMN (VU 563) *“Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore”*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

God, we sometimes struggle with the in-between

– the push and pull of being called kind and being kind.

**We struggle with the in-between of being a voice for love
and being silent so as not to offend.**

**We struggle with believing we’re enough and being enough.
God, when we join your limitless love, we find ourselves filled
with hope and purpose, grounded in support.**

**Forgive us for our insecurities. Forgive us for the times
we fail because we fail to try, fail to speak, and fail to believe.
You call us to live fully into ourselves, living as our whole
selves to become a people of God. Too easily we tap into
excuses “someone else can do and be better.” Rather we
should run and shout for joy, “God has called me!” “I can
share love.” “I share love!”**

God of wonder and delight turn our hearts and minds to you.

**We welcome you to speak to us this day, offering your
strength where we are weak. Join our hearts and minds so that
we may seek your mission for our community of faith. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Let us never tire of God's assurance – you are seen, you are known, you are loved. God sees us as we are, knows us by name, and loves us deeply.

When you confess with your heart, God sees and knows and pours out bounteous love upon you, anointing you to love and serve. Be at peace, friends and neighbours, you are forgiven.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“Shout to the Lord”* – Darlene Zschech
– soloist Chris Corbett

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (VU 570) *“Jesus' hands were kind hands”*

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING: **PSALM 40:1-11 (VU p.764):**
I waited patiently for God.

HEBREW READING: **ISAIAH 49:1-7:**
The mission of God's servant.

GOSPEL READING: **JOHN 1:29-42:**
Simon and Andrew become disciples.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

We are called as God’s beloved to be good stewards of our time, our energy, and our resources. God takes what we offer and uses them to serve the world we are called to love.

All that we have and all that we are returns to you, O God. Gather these offerings and make them sufficient for the needs of the world. We give you all our thanks and praise, for you alone are worthy. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Holy God, our source of light and life, we ask that you travel with us as we hold the questions. The questions that have been refined to name what we seek, what we need, and where we should go. Sometimes we wonder, are we worthy to be called by you? Sometimes, the answers shake us. Sometimes, we are too afraid to admit truths about ourselves. Old wounds remain and sometimes hurt. We feel broken. We are uncertain. Fear haunts us. Lessons learned need to be learned again and again.

Help us to know we are not alone. Help us to feel our way through the shadows, finding the gentle glow of the light. Help us to see the sacred glow of another’s light. Help us to know that the questions are at times the answers and that by asking we are led to the home within ourselves where you dwell. Help us in our belief and unbelief, God, that you have called us, that you claim us, and that we are here to serve.

We pray for those who are beset with burdens too heavy to bear. Draw them up out of the pits of desolation and depression and set their feet again on solid ground. May they find in Jesus Christ a sure foundation for their lives.

We pray for those who face death, and for those encumbered with sorrow at the loss of one held dear. We remember those we’ve lost through sickness, through tragedies or unforeseen circumstances. May we rest in the conviction that you cause all pain to cease and abide in the assurance that in Christ life shall not end. We pray for the sick and those weakened by pain. As

Jesus worked wonders, making persons whole, may we in Christ's name surround the infirm with healing ministries of comfort and care. Let our care provide for their dignity despite their disabling condition.

We pray for ourselves and for those offering prayers on behalf of others. Put a new song in our mouths and your praise on our lips. We delight to do your will; may your law remain in our hearts. As we speak of your faithfulness before all of your people, continue to multiply your wonderful deeds in our midst.

Be our guide. Be our soft space and sturdy foundation. Be our healing balm. Be our ever-true guiding presence, leading us to each other, showing us our companions along the journey. You create such beautiful spaces for healing, rest, and protection. We give thanks, and we rest in the hope that you will be with us now and in the years to come.

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 567) *“Will you come and follow me”*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Friends and neighbours, now go into the world as God's beloved, called to serve and proclaim God's love. Go, knowing that you are made to shine bright. Go with Christ's strength, proclaiming the Good News to all through the lives you lead. Go in peace, ready to love and serve God.

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

Prayer Resources:

*Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020; When we Gather, A Book of Prayers for Worship 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 (JANUARY 26, 2020) READINGS:

Isaiah 9:1-4;
Psalm 27:1, 4-9;
1 Corinthians 1:10-18;
Matthew 4:12-23.

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, January 21st

@ 10:30 – Finance Committee Meeting

@ 7 pm – Women Alive

Wednesday, January 22nd

Church Office Closed

@7 pm - Choir

Thursday, January 23rd

@ 10:30 am – Bible Study

@ 7 pm – Church Board Meeting

Friday, January 24th

@ 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!

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.

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.

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

January 26th - "What a Friend we have in Jesus" – Besig & Price

Stewardship Seconds

In a generous act of hospitality, God invites us into ministry. How shall we then respond?