



## 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: Bill Koroluk

Scripture Readers: Judy Meier, Chris Corbett

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

## January 5, 2020 EPIPHANY SUNDAY 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:

We welcome a new year.

**O God, light up our way.**

We face anxieties and fears.

**O God, be light in our darkness.**

We remember the troubled ones among family and friends.

**O God, be the warm light of support.**

In our world there is abuse, poverty, and fear.

**O God, we will bring light to the dark places.**

We will journey and venture as a faith community.

**O God, your light will lead us forward.**

**HYMN (MV135)** *“Called by earth and sky”*

**OPENING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**God of kings and paupers, of the destitute and the satisfied, shine your light into this place. Be present as we worship and bring the gift of our praise, and go with us as we leave, so that your light may shine in our hearts always, illumining the way to your love. Amen.**

**HYMN (VU 79)** *“Arise, your light is come”*

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

**God, who has pity on the weak and needy, we come before you admitting our brokenness. We confess that we have not been a source of light to those in desperate need of light, and we confess that we have run from your light, preferring to hide in the dark places of our own need. Have mercy on us. Lift up your eyes and look around. Shine the light of your love on us all, that we may reflect your light in the places of our lives. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

**God indeed looks up and sees our need.  
In Jesus, God has shined the light of love  
on us all.  
In the warm glow of God’s light, our path  
is illumined and we leave this place  
enabled to look up and see the need of those  
around us. For this great gift,  
we give thanks! **Amen.****

**PRAYER RESPONSE (MV81)** *“Love us into fullness”*

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US**

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (MV156)** *“Dance with the Spirit”*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**RESPONSORIAL READING:** **PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14**  
(VU p. 790 Parts One and Two):  
*God’s anointed defends the poor.*

**HEBREW READING:** **ISAIAH 60:1-6:**  
*Arise, shine; for your light has come.*

**EPISTLE READING:** **EPHESIANS 3:1-12:**  
*Boldness and confidence through faith.*

**GOSPEL READING:** **MATTHEW 2:1-12:**  
*The visit of the Magi.*

**SERMON:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING INVITATION:**

The magi travelled from afar to offer  
gifts fit for a king.  
What gifts do we offer our Sovereign One?  
What do we hope that these gifts will do  
for our community and for our world?

**OFFERING:**

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

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

The gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh were signs of commitment to God's gift of love.

**These gifts are signs of commitment to the faith community.**

**Bless them as your Word is heard and your people are inspired.**

**Bless them to help the lonely find companionship, the powerless find partners.**

**Bless them to help the oppressed find justice, and the bereaved know renewed hope.**

**Bless them as a token of all we can give and be in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

O God, whose first creative act was light, we thank you for the light that shines around us: the dazzling sunlight, mysterious moonlight, stark, stormy afternoon light, and rosy seashore dawns.

We thank you for the welcoming light of home at the end of a long day or weary journey, for the lights which mark our way on unfamiliar roads, for the light of human welcome in a loved-one's face.

We thank you for illumination you give to mind and spirit: for the witness of your Word, the bright example of your saints, and the presence of your Spirit.

Most especially we thank you for the light of Jesus: he is the brightness of your glory, illuminating our life, bringing glowing vision and penetrating insight, showing us our meaning, and beckoning us to your purpose.

Bring his light to bear on each of us and on the life of our church and nation. Heal us of all shadows; open our eyes that we may see and follow your way. We lift to you the evidence of our continuing short sightedness: war, oppression, pollution, hunger, inequity, and more. And we thank you for evidence of your transforming presence. Continue to lead us into truth and wholeness.

To all who suffer, God, be present in love. May sickness, sorrow, and broken relationships not obscure your care, but draw the sufferers towards your healing love.

May unemployment, imprisonment, abuse, and oppression serve as a lens to focus the energy of the vision of shalom. We lift to you now the situations which trouble us...

Most loving God of light, to you we commend our dreams and our visions, our lives and our paths. Shine in our hearts and minds; be manifest in our lives and break forth upon your world, in Jesus' name and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

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

### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Rejoice, exceeding great joy.

Fall down and worship Christ.

Offer your treasures to God.

Then depart from here transformed  
and return to your home following  
another way.

May the God of surprises bless you,  
may the Christ of possibilities keep you,  
and may the Spirit of new pathways hold you,  
now and forevermore. **Amen.**

**CHORAL BLESSING** *"My Peace"* – K. Routledge

### **Prayer Resources:**

*\*Seasons of the Spirit - SeasonsFUSION Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020; Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship; 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 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with Permission.*

**NEXT WEEK'S (JANUARY 12, 2020) READINGS:**

Isaiah 42:1-9;  
Psalm 29;  
Acts 10:34-43;  
Matthew 3:13-17.

**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. 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 7<sup>th</sup>  
@ 7 pm – Women Alive  
Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>  
@ 4:40 pm – Worship Committee Meeting  
@ 7 pm – Choir  
Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
@ 10:30 – Bible Study  
Friday, January 10<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

**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 30<sup>th</sup>. The gift cards will be ready for pickup on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Stewardship Second*

*Let God's grace and gifts flow freely: from God to us,  
from us to others.*