



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: Graydon Eskowich

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Doug Lyon

Scripture Readers: Lorne Anderson, Jean Senecal

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 2, 2017

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A

(Sacrament of Baptism)

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:

This is God's land. From coast to coast to coast, from the far off reaches of the north, to the windswept shores of east and west, to the border with our southern neighbor, God is in this land.

This is our land, too.

Here are God's people. From indigenous peoples to recent immigrants, from many generations of farmers to newly arrived professionals, God's people dwell around us.

We are the people of this land.

Now is God's time. In summer retreats and holiday places, amid bird song, salt spray, farm-scented air, in cathedral

sanctuaries, and parkland settings, we gather to honour this holy day together.

We gather to honour God. Let us give God thanks and praise.

[Adapted from Worship for All Seasons II. Selections from Gathering – Year A, page 195].

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

OPENING PRAYER:

We gather now in worship to encounter God – Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love.

We gather as a community of those seeking to follow Jesus in the Way.

We gather, young and old, to welcome and be welcomed by the God whose very name is Love.

Let us worship God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

Let us pray:

Kind Creator, Compassionate Friend, Ever-Present Spirit, we have gathered this morning to experience anew your presence, in the singing, in the speaking, in the listening, in the actions, in the silence. We have gathered to welcome your precious child *Elizabeth Jeen Luchia* through the waters of baptism and to be reminded as we do so that each one of us is valued and treasured as a member of your family. As we worship this morning, empower and enable us that we might go from this place, when our service ends, to love the world in Jesus’ name. Amen.

[Written by Phil Hobbs. Pentecost 1.2017 Year A Gathering, page 62. Used with permission].

HYMN (VU 222): *“Come, let us sing”*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

God of loving kindness,

We choose to examine honestly what it is that stops us from being the best we can be.

We look at what holds us back from generous hospitality and radical welcome.

**We accept that we fail to include everyone into our midst, and that there are others that we turn away.
We are sorry and for all this we ask your mercy.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

God is saving us by divine mercy, no exceptions.

We are all saved in spite of ourselves, good and bad alike.

As a cup of water can wash away dirt and grime from our hands, and a cool cup of water can quench our thirst, so the grace of God cleanses us, restores, and revives us to continue on our journeys of faith. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 95): *“How Deep the Peace”*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM SERVICE
(SEE INSERT)

HYMN (VU 444): *“Child of blessing, child of promise”*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

GENESIS 22:1-14:

The sacrifice of Isaac.

MATTHEW 10:40-42:

Welcoming and offering a cup of water.

REFLECTION:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING INVITATION:

Let us worship God with our offerings.

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 191) "What Can I Do?"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (in unison)

Mother Teresa practiced radical welcome to the sick and dying on the streets of Calcutta, and the Sisters of Mercy continue with this practice today. Mother Teresa once said, "We know only too well that what we are doing is something more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something." So God, here are our drops, our single cups, our pitchers and jugs, we commit to being part of the flooding waters of love and compassion that encircles the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Today, we hold in our hearts big issues that will need an ocean of goodwill to resolve: poverty, inequality, war, the displacement of people, the abuse of human rights, environmental degradation. We pray that things will change.

We will do what we can to make a difference, for even in an ocean a cup of water can make a difference.

We ponder issues closer to home, spot fires that need a good dousing from a water tank or two of goodwill to extinguish – political play-making with refugees and asylum-seekers, crude lobbying that put habitats at risk, disputes within families. We pray that things will change.

We will do what we can to make a difference, for even in a tank a cup of water can make a difference.

We see everyday situations that need a soaking shower of goodwill – inconsiderate behavior in traffic, the supermarket, on the sporting field; inappropriate talk at work. We pray that things will change.

We will do what we can to make a difference, for even in the shower a cup of water can make a difference.

We remember the small things that are truly made better with one single cup of water – the warm smile of a neighbor over the fence, coffee with a friend in need, shared laughter, and a sincere welcome. Yes, there are big things that need an ocean or a water tank, but sometimes even one cup of water will make a difference.

We will do what we can to make a difference, for a cup of water can make an ocean of difference. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

NEW CREED (VU P.918):

HYMN (VU 644): *“I was there to hear your
borning cry”*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

May you go forth knowing you are a child of God, that you are called by name, that you are precious and honoured and loved, that you need not be afraid, and that just as you have been blessed, called, named, honoured, called precious, you too can bless, name, honour, and call precious those you encounter day by day. Godspeed.

*[Written by David Lander. Pentecost 1.2017 Gathering,
page 41. Used with permission].*

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

Prayer Resources:

* *Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFusion Pentecost 1.2017; Worship for All Seasons II, Selections from Gathering – Year A; the United Church of Canada Pentecost. 1, 2017 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

Next Week’s (July 9, 2017) Scripture Readings:

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;

Psalms 45:10-17;

Romans 7:15-25a;

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

**Congratulations to Elizabeth Jeen Luchia
on being baptized today!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome you all to worship, especially our visitors or guests. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please remember to sign our guestbook at the entrance of the church.

Please stay back for a cup of coffee and conversation at the CE Centre immediately following the service.

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

Church Office - Summer Hours

Our summer hours commence. The Church office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm for the months of July and August.

Financial Flash

We have given \$4,622.22 to Mission and Service in the last three months – April to June.

Coverage for July 30th and August Services

Sunday, July 30th – Fifth Sunday – Property Committee

Sunday, August 6th – Finance

Sunday August 13th – Mission & Service/Outreach/Membership

Sunday, August 20th – M&P

Sunday, August 27th – CE

September Dates to Note:

Sunday, September 10th – Communion

Sunday, September 17th – Back to Church and Sunday School, Noon Luncheon (Worship Committee)

Stewardship Seconds

Sow monetary seeds through Mission & Service to offer Jesus' love and compassion.