



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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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: Glenn George

Scripture Readers: Judy Meier

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 9, 2017

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – 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, come gather here to praise our God;
for the one who so delighted in creating all that is
abides with us and within us today.

Our hearts are filled with gladness.

Let us delight in this community and the warm and
loving relationships that grow within it.

Our hearts are filled with gladness.

Let us remember Christ who loved sharing stories and bringing
healing and wholeness to all he encountered.

Our hearts are filled with gladness.

Let us feel the embracing goodness of the Spirit who

leads us toward a future of justice and joy.

Our hearts are filled with gladness.

HYMN (VU 395): *"Come in, come in and sit down"*

OPENING PRAYER:

God, whose beauty is revealed in a summer rose,

we praise your creative perfection.

God, whose joy is revealed in the reunion of old friends,

we praise your never-failing companionship.

God, whose concern is revealed in the tough struggles,

we adore your essential peacefulness.

Be revealed in this time of worship, O God,

as our voices sing your praise, as our minds are

challenged by your Word, and as our hearts respond to

your great love in Jesus, your Anointed One. Amen.

HYMN (VU 333): *"Love divine, all loves excelling"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

**God of grace, there are times when we turn
away from joy, and in doing so we separate ourselves from
you. In a spirit of contrition and deep mindfulness, we come to
you with our prayers of confession.**

**We regret that in the busy-ness of everyday life we forget to
look for everyday blessings and celebrate them.**

**We acknowledge there are times when we get in our own way,
we build road blocks on paths we know will lead to happiness,
and railroad others who would invite us into loving and joyful
relationship.**

**We flabbergast ourselves at our ability to choose misery over
gladness. We admit there are times we compare ourselves to
others and become jealous and resentful of what we see. We
confess that there are times we deflate other people's joy and
delight through negligence, impatience, or spite. We fall into
the folly of believing we have to earn your grace by hard work
and self-deprecation. We make silly choices and forget to
laugh at them. God, in your mercy, forgive us.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Jesus says, "Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you, and you will find rest for your souls."

Jesus says, "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

The peace of Christ is yours!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (VU 577): *"I've got peace like a river"*

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Romans 7:15-25a:

I do not do the good I want to do.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30:

My yoke is easy, my burden is light.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 191) *"What can I do?"*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**O God, we remember in joy all we have
been given.**

**We return those gifts to you in offerings
of money and in the offering of ourselves
and all that we have and are.
May our gifts be used in joyful service in
our world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God of grace and glory, Maker of worlds and shaker of foundations, we thank you for your forgiving love and for your holy vision of a world where all can live in dignity and peace.

We thank you for these summer days when we can ease the pace of our lives and rediscover people and activities that lift our spirits, renew our bodies, and give us joy.

We pray for the peace of the world, O God, and for the peace that only you can give – not only the absence of conflict and battle, but also the fullness of life that is prosperity for all, goodwill among neighbours, and welcome for every outsider.

Hear us now as name the situations and nations for which we seek your Shalom:

Our own country, Canada...
families buffeted by the storm of economic despair...
war-torn countries...
our families, our friends, ourselves...

We gather these and all our prayers, those spoken aloud and those too deep for words, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 575): *"I 'm gonna live so God can use me"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;

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honour all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

Prayer Resources:

- *Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Pentecost 1. 2017; Prayers to Share – Year A by David Sparks; Worship for All Seasons II, Selections from Gathering – Year A & B; Celebrate God's Presence, 2000; the United Church of Canada Pentecost. 1. 2017 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

Next Week's (July 16, 2017) Scripture Readings:

*Genesis 25:19-34;
Psalm 119:105-112;
Romans 8:1-11;
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.*

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

Summer office hours commenced on July 4th. The Church office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm for July and August.

Coverage for Summer Services

Sunday, August 6th – Finance

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

Sunday, August 20th – M&P

Sunday, August 27th – CE

Sunday, September 3rd – Property Committee

September Dates to Note:

Sunday, September 10th – Communion

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

Stewardship Seconds

*According to Paul, as children of God, we can count our
chickens before they hatch!*