



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

Office: (306) 752-2288 Email: melfortuc@sasktel.net

Website: www.melfortunitedchurch.com

Worship Time: 10:30 AM

Ministers: All of us

Worship Leader: Kelly Copeland

Music:

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter:

Scripture Readers:

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 12, 2020
Sixth 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:

We bring our hopes and fears, our struggles and our lives as they are, into the presence of the one who leaves the doors and futures open to gracious possibilities.

God's word lights the path before us.

May this time of worship empower us to make faithful choices.

God's word lights the paths before us.

May this time of worship renew and restore our relationships with God and each other.

God's word lights the paths before us.

Come, let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

Abundant God, use our senses to open our hearts and minds to the richness of scriptures.

Help us to receive the gifts you sow so graciously and freely in our lives, and inspire us to share such bounty generously with our neighbours. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

For hatreds between peoples,
for violence among nations,
for breakdowns into civility, we pray *(silence)*.

Why does it have to be this way, O God?

What choices of ours could bring change? *(silence)*

For estrangement within families,
for tensions among neighbours, we pray. *(silence)*

Why does it have to be this way, O God?

What choices of ours could bring change? *(silence)*

For divisions in the Christian church,
for conflict within our community, we pray. *(silence)*

Why does it have to be this way, O God?

What choices of ours could bring change? *(silence)*

For our inner struggles with an inflated ego,
or deflated self-worth, we pray. *(silence)*

Why does it have to be this way, O God?

What choices of ours could bring change? *(silence)*

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear the promise of God.

Through all these times, amidst all these conditions,
God offers the Spirit's transformative power
for our companion, guide, and hope.

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC: “*Hallelujah*” – Leonard Cohen, sung by K. D. Lang

YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_NpxTWbovE

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING: **PSALM 119:105-112** (VU p. 841)
Your word is a lamp for my feet.

HEBREW READING: **GENESIS 25:19-34**
Esau gives up his birthright for Jacob’s stew.

EPISTLE READING: **ROMANS 8:1-11**
To set the mind on the Spirit is life.

GOSPEL READING: **MATTHEW 13:1-9,18-23**
The parable of the sower and the seed.

SERMON:

It’s Not About the Dirt – Sermon on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

YouTube link: <https://pastorsings.com/2017/08/13/its-not-about-the-dirt-sermon-on-matthew-131-9-18-23/>

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OUR RESPONSE

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:

God of each, God of all:
we pray for our families,
those with whom we are drawn together
by birth or by marriage or by adoption.

**May they receive care and love
from you and from us as well.**

We pray for our friends and neighbours,
those with whom we are drawn together
by common places of work or learning,
by common aspirations and values.

**Strengthen the ties between us,
and may we find in these relationships the freedom
and companionship and community
that nurture us and the world around us.**

We pray for our fellow citizens,
those with whom we are drawn together
by birthplace and nation, by regional ties and societal traditions.

**Fashion these bonds so to insure
the relationships and ideals we claim
are paid more than lip-service,
so that who we are and have been
never closes us to who we may yet become.**

We pray for those who are part of this community
and in the whole Christian Church,
those with whom we are drawn together
by a common faith and uncommon grace.

**May we thrive in ministry,
may we expand in mission,
may we deepen in spirituality,
and may we grow closer to one another and you.**

We pray for those who are fashioned in your image,
with whom we are drawn together in one family.

**Free us to recognize the stranger as no stranger,
but sister and brother;
and to see the joy and need of any
as the cause for our rejoicing and compassion.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *(in unison)*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive
us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Go from this place finding the strength to right any wrongs,
To be the peace brought to division,
To be the love that is needed within the world.
Go in peace. **Amen.**

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**Seasons of the Spirit – Seasons FUSION Lent, Easter 2020; The
United Church of Canada Pentecost 2020 Year A Gathering
Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

NEXT WEEK'S (July 19, 2020) READINGS:

Genesis 28:10-19a;

Psalm 139;

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30,36-43.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday 9 am – 2 pm

Pastoral Care - Contact Information

Should you need emergency pastoral care please call Ron Nielsen
@ 306-921-7794 or 306-752-4119.

Transfer or Applying for Membership

If 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 have changed your address or phone number, please advise the Church Office so that we can keep your information current.

Thank you!

FundScrip Over the Summer

The next FundScrip deadline will be in September.

Stewardship Seconds

Stewards recognize and use the gifts they have.