



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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Website: [www.melfortunitedchurch.com](http://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: Gerri Wurtz

Scripture Readers: Bea White, Caroline Holoien

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 16, 2017

Sixth 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:**

We have gathered to worship God.

**We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community, and insight.**

We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, and to ask God's help in our learning and in our growing.**

God has given us this beautiful earth, all that grows, all that lives upon it.

**Thanks be to God.**

God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

**Thanks be to God.**

God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

**Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.**

**HYMN (MV 28):** *"God of the Bible"*

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

**Loving God, we come as both the sowers  
and the seed. We come often feeling small,  
yet you nurture our branching out.**

**We come to drink of your living water, and  
to share that living water with others.**

**We come to embrace the manure of life,  
knowing that out of it comes our growth into  
maturity and fullness of mission.**

**Bless us, O Spirit, in our shared journey of  
faith as we proclaim the good news of  
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**HYMN (VU 501):** *"Break now the bread of life"*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

We come with our confession:

When we have been careless with our birthright

– we have failed Earth, and all of creation that dwells on her.

**Lord, have mercy.**

When we have hidden our true intentions

– have been dishonest in word and deed, in order to achieve  
personal gain.

**Lord, have mercy.**

When we have behaved dishonorably

– hurt our families and betrayed the trust of those near and dear to  
us.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We pray that your spirit might touch our hearts with a longing for  
reconciliation and a yearning to put aside what separates us from  
you and our neighbor.

**Christ, have mercy.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Hear the Good News! God's grace is for all without reserve.

**We joyfully accept God's shower of forgiveness, freeing us to live full lives as Christ's disciples.**

God writes a new law upon our hearts, a law of self-giving and service.

**Thanks be to God for this gift of freedom!  
To God be the glory and the praise.**

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

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US**

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (MV 151):** *"I am a child of God"*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**PSALM 119:105-112 (VU P. 841):**

*Your Word is a lamp to my feet.*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Isaiah 55:10-13**

*God's offer of mercy.*

**Romans 8:1-11:**

*To set the mind on the Spirit is life.*

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23:**

*The parable of the sower and the seed.*

**SERMON:**

## **OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING:**

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** (*in unison*)

**Gracious God, in Jesus' parable, the sower  
scatters seeds on the land.**

**Thank you for the seeds of love and fairness  
you have scattered in our hearts and our world.  
Thank you for the seeds that will be planted and  
take root because of these offerings given for  
the work of the church in your name.**

**Bless these offerings as seeds of loving  
possibility. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

God eternal, our times are held within your hands, our lives are shaped by your design from before our birth. You take hold of what has happened and nurture within it what you wish to be. Like a wise mother, you give us both freedom and guidance. How wise and caring you are, most blessed God; we praise you and thank you.

God eternal, our times are open to your Spirit, our lives await your touch. God of mercy, fountain of loving care, wellspring of blessing and source of our hope: help us to break through the dry surface of our parched lives to find the life that flows beneath, quietly, deeply, cool with refreshment – that living water for our souls which is the Spirit of Christ your Son.

We ask for these your gifts:

for all in hospital or nursing home, healing and encouragement; for all living with long-term threats to their health or well-being, patience and endurance;

for all who are worried, ease of heart;

for all who are lonely, some human contact;

for all who are anxious about their job, or who are looking for work, fortitude;

for all who are wondering what path in life to take, a sense of being able to trust that you, God, will guide them.

Finally we think of our own individual lives. We take some moments of silence to give you our thanks for the blessing you have given us, and to ask for the needs that weigh most upon us...

God of mercy, eternal source of life renewed and abundant, rise up and flood with loving care every withered life and every heart that thirsts for you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

### **SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU 481):** *"Sent forth by Gods' blessing"*

### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Go into the world rejoicing, for God delights in all the Earth. Dance and sing as is fitting of God's beloved children, step out with joy and gladness and be bearers of goodwill and kindness wherever you go. May the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you as you go. **Amen.**

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

### **Prayer Resources:**

*Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Pentecost 1. 2017; Celebrate God's Presence, 2000; 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 23, 2017) Scripture Readings:**

*Genesis 28:10-19a;  
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24;  
Romans 8:12-25;  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*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 13<sup>th</sup> – Mission & Service/Outreach/Membership  
Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – M&P  
Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – CE  
Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Property Committee

#### Reminder

Naomi Unit is hosting July Birthdays at Parkland Place on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### September Dates to Note:

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – Communion  
Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – Back to Church and Sunday School, Noon Luncheon (Worship Committee)  
Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Fall Garage Sale

#### November Date to Note:

Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> -  
Scott Woods Christmas Show  
Details to follow later

#### **Stewardship Seconds**

*The gifts we present are redeemed as ministry in God's economy.*