



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: Marion Heavin

Scripture Readers: Sue Amundrud, Dorothy Busby

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 23, 2017

Seventh 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:

And God created the heavens and the earth.

And God gave them to us to use and enjoy.

And God breathed life into each one of us, and set us upon the earth.

And God sent Jesus Christ to save us from the pull of death.

Everything that fills our souls with gladness and light is a gift from the Loving Creator.

We have been entrusted with unfathomable riches.

For all this our God is to be worshipped and praised.

Let us worship God together.

HYMN (VU 269): *"The care the eagle gives her young"*

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

Faithful Friend, you who search and know us and are acquainted with all our ways, we need to search and know you, we need to be acquainted with your ways.

As you are always present with us, we need to know we are always present with you, for in our pain and grief, our guilt and doubt, we lose touch with you.

Keep us from wandering aimlessly, lovelessly through time.

Faithful Friend, be with us. Hear our cry for one another and for your world in need.

Be with us as we worship you. Amen.

HYMN (VU 497): *"Nearer my God to thee"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

Eternal God, you love us steadfastly,
but we have trouble loving in return;
you call us, but we have wax-filled ears;
you reveal yourself to us, but our eyelids
are heavy; you lead us toward our neighbor,
but we build walls around ourselves;
you hate evil, injustice, and alienation, but we
get used to it.

O God, we pray, help us to see ourselves
both as we are and as we might be before you,
and draw us by your Spirit into your forgiving,
renewing, and serviceable grace, through
the mercies of Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

God says to us: You are my chosen ones.

I love you. I'm proud of you.

Stand firm in your renewed commitment.

Know that I have forgiven you; I call you
by name; you are mine.

-3-

I have entered into covenant
with you and will stand by you in all
times and all places.
Dare to live fully the life to which
I have called you. **Amen.**

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

Hymn (VU 365): *"Jesus loves me"*

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

PSALM 139: 1-12, 23-24 (VU p.861):

God, you have searched me and known me.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Romans 8:12-25:

Creation groans with labour pains.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43:

The parable of the weeds scattered among good seed.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

When you call us to be disciples, Loving God,
we sometimes think that you do all the asking –
asking us for our time,

**asking us for our money,
asking us for our very lives.**

**We forget that, in the beginning, we had nothing
at all and that everything that we have was given
to us by you.**

**You only ask from us what we are willing to freely
return to you, the giver of every gift.**

**Here are our freely given gifts today. Bless them
for your service in the church and the world in need. Amen.**

[Written by Fern Gibbard. Pentecost 1.2017 (Year A) Gathering, page 39. Used with permission].

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Creator God, you do not create us to live alone and you have not made us all alike. We thank you for the varied society of humankind into which we come, by which we are brought up, and through which we discover your purpose for our lives. In gratitude we pray for our fellow human beings:

We pray for our families with whom we live day by day. May this most searching test of our character not find us broken and empty. By all that we do and say, help us to build up the faith and confidence of those we love.

When we quarrel, help us to forgive quickly. Help us to welcome new members into our families without reserve, and not to neglect those who in our eyes have become less interesting or more demanding: the weeds in our lives.

We pray for the places where we work, that there we may be employees and employers who have no need to be ashamed of anyone. Help us to give everyone the sense that they are personally wanted and cared for.

We pray for the communities to which we belong, that we may be good citizens. Make us willing to accept responsibility when we are called to it; make us willing also to give place to others; that they too, may have their opportunity. Grant that our influence may be good and not evil.

We pray for the life of the world: that every nation may seek the way that leads to peace; that human rights and freedom may everywhere be respected; and that the world's resources may be ungrudgingly shared.

We pray for the homes of humankind: for broken homes and those in danger of breaking, that your love may redeem and remake them. We pray for the displaced, dispersed, the refugee, and the homeless, that each and everyone may find shelter and home.

We pray for those who are ill: those known to us and those whose names we will never know. We pray that their illness may not break their spirit; that through the healing skill you have given, they may be made well; and that those who are permanently handicapped may find the way to use and overcome their suffering. Lord, we pray for the family and friends of Marilyn Bulmer and ask you to be close to them in grief. May the night time of their tears turn to the joy of morning as difficult memories fade and good memories take their place.

We pray for the church, as your people, Christ's body, and faithful servants in the world, help us to show your love and care for one another, that all may know, we are truly your disciples. May we help to make your church a gateway that stands open so all may step into the love of God.

Hearing God, accept both the spoken and silent prayers of our hearts this day and answer. We pray them in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, who taught us to pray saying,

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 602): *"Blest be the tie that binds"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

People of God, heaven and earth touch
when we open our hearts to God,
the gateway of grace never closes
and God's arms are eternally open
wide in welcoming embrace.

Go from this sacred place into the
sacred place that is the world,
go in God's warm embrace,
go enfolded in grace,

go knowing God declares
"I'm with you; I will never leave you."
We go out in peace. Amen.

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

Prayer Resources:

Flames of the Spirit, Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey; Seasons of the Spirit –SeasonsFUSION Pentecost 1.2017; Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship; 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 30, 2017) Scripture Readings:

*Genesis 29:15-28;
Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b;
Romans 8:26-39;
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52.*

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

Funeral Service for Marilyn Bulmer

The service celebrating the life of Marilyn Bulmer is being held here at the church on August 3rd at 2:00 pm

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

Reminder

Naomi Unit is hosting July Birthdays at Parkland Place on July 26th.

September Dates to Note:

Sunday, September 10th – Communion

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

Friday, September 29th & Saturday, September 30th – Fall Garage
Sale

November Date to Note:

Friday, November 17th -

Scott Woods Christmas Show

Details to follow later

Stewardship Seconds

Stewards recognize and use the gifts they have.