



## 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: Imogene Schick

Scripture Readers: Bryan Wurtz, Gerri Wurtz

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Eight 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, come gather around.

Take this time to step out of the obstacle course of daily life and step into the loving embrace of God.

**Here we can stop stressing and cease the juggling of having to manage it all,**

**here we can catch our breath and regain our balance,**

**here we find treasure that no wealth or striving can buy,**

**here the Spirit offers us kindness and care,**

**here we are home in the loving family of God.**

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

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

Sit comfortably in your seats, your feet gently planted on the ground, and your hands gently resting on your laps or knees.

Close your eyes and begin to breathe deeply and gently. After a few moments silently speak the word “beloved” as you breathe out.

After several breaths, gently build this to the phrase “I am beloved.”

Breath this phrase for several moments then let the words become “I am God’s beloved.”

If you catch your minds wandering and you start to lose focus, gently return to the phrase “I am God’s beloved” and resettle into the prayer.

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

## **PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:** *(in unison)*

**God, there are times when we have trouble balancing our lives,  
we desire to be good and honourable people yet often we fail.  
We have trouble making choices:  
We want to honour the past, but not to the point where we  
might not be able to step into the future.  
We don’t want to step into the future without honouring  
the past.  
We want to take all our responsibilities seriously – work,  
family, community – without one taking precedence  
over the others, but some days this is hard to manage.  
We want to make decisions that are right and life-giving for  
ourselves, without upsetting and hurting others,  
but sometimes people are hurt nevertheless.  
We want our loved ones to choose good things for  
themselves, and yet still have a place in which we can live  
and grow together,  
but this takes some juggling and self-awareness that can be  
difficult to grasp.  
We face moral dilemmas and we struggle to negotiate our  
way through them.**

**At times we choose comfort over compassion, when we stick to our social norms and overlook the cultural practice of others.**

**We struggle to know how far we should go and who we can upset in circumstances where an injustice needs to be addressed, or a wrong to be put right.**

**Sometimes we are too timid, sometimes too bold.**

**We falter when we know we should be speaking out against unjust laws and practices.**

**We honour the secular, when we know we should be honouring the sacred.**

**For these times, forgive us. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God is saving all of us by divine mercy, no exceptions.

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

You can be secure in this for nothing is able to separate us from the love of God shown to us in Jesus the Christ.

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

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

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**Hymn (MV 34):** *"All is done for glory"*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**PSALM 105:1-11, 45b (VU p. 828 Part One)**

*Make known what God has done.*

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

***Romans 8:26-39***

*The Spirit intercedes for us when we cannot pray.*

***Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52***

*Five parables: mustard seed, yeast, treasure, pearls, net.*

**SERMON:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING:**

**OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 182):** *"Grateful"*

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

**God of goodness and kindness, here we stand on solid ground, secure in the knowledge that by keeping our eyes on you and by honouring your command to love our neighbour we will find security and balance in our lives. Bless the gifts we offer this day and may they help to meet the needs of this church and the world. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

How then shall we pray?

**We gather here a group of graced and gracing people: holders of debts and grudges and forgiveness, speakers of truth, askers of questions, seekers of your way and your love.**

How then shall we pray?

**We pray for our family, those connected to us by love and those connected by biology.**

How then shall we pray?

**We pray for our community of faith, in the challenges we face and the joys we share.**

How then shall we pray?

**We pray for those in need, whatever their need.**

**We pray for those in pain, whatever their pain.**

**We pray for those in trouble, whatever their trouble.**

How then shall we pray?

**We pray for our neighbour and we pray for the stranger; for familiar places and places far away.**

**We lift all our concerns to you, Holy One.**

**We ask for strength and encouragement as we continue to search for answers.**

**Guide us, that we might not miss the new possibility or the shifting opportunity because we were looking for something else.**

How then shall we pray?

**By remaining open and connected to you. Amen.**

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

### **SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU 624):** *"Give us to laughter"*

### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

**As we step out into the hustle and bustle of our lives, we know that God goes with us, a solid balustrade to keep us secure and steady, a gentle breath to gift us serenity and peace, and an encouraging voice urging us to honour all of creation in our word and deeds.**

Go, you are ready to love and serve the world.

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

### **Prayer Resources:**

*\*Prayers to Share Year A, Responsive Prayers for Each Sunday of the Church Year; Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Pentecost 1.2017; Worship for All Seasons II, Selections from Gathering – Year A, and the United Church of Canada Pentecost 1. 2017 Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

### **Next Week's (August 6, 2017) Reading (s):**

Genesis 32:22-31

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

*Psalm 17:1-15, 15*

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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

**Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

@2 pm - Funeral service celebrating the life of Marilyn Bulmer.

#### Church Office - Summer Hours

The Church office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm for the months of July and August.

#### Coverage for Summer Services

Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> – 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

#### 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***

*When did the church of Christ begin to think that it was made up of underdogs and wimps? The Bible says, "If God is for us, who is against us?" (Romans 8:31)*