



## 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: Jodi Allen

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Elaine Welter

Scripture Readers: Gwendolyn Mills Wood, Jean Senecal

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**June 25, 2017**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost – Year A**

*(Grad Recognition & Reception of new members)*

### 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:**

You are here with us, O God, whatever happens;

**in the storms of life, when we do not know where to turn, you are there.**

You are with us, O God, whatever happens;

**in the wonderful days, when life dances and sings, you are there.**

You are there, O God, whatever happens;

**as we make the choice that reflects our Christian calling, you are there.**

You are with us, O God, whatever happens;

in the community of faith, as we worship and risk with others, you are there. Whatever happens, you are with us, and you take care of us, O Most Caring God!

**HYMN (VU 229):** *"God of the sparrow"*

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

Living God, we enter this time of worship for we feel you calling us and urging us to be a part of your family.

We stand with all the people gathered here in hopeful community, choosing to be a place where your generosity and kindness dwell. Amen.

**HYMN (MV 12):** *"Come touch our hearts"*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

We confess, O God, the anxieties that cloud our days:

**concerns about family and friends, worries about work, and a lack of confidence in our own abilities.**

We confess, O God, the anxieties that cloud our church:

**concerns about the health of our community members, questions about the direction of church life, and different opinions about how to be your true disciples in the world.**

We confess to you, O God, the anxieties that cloud our world:

**concerns about the injustice between have and have-not nations, worries about terror from outside and within, and a lack of confidence in leaders' abilities to achieve a lasting peace. (Time of Silent Reflection)**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

If you believe that God is for you, if God who cares for the smallest bird loves you beyond all reckoning, your worries and anxieties do not stand a chance.

**We will bring our concerns before you, O God, and they will loose their grip on us; our fear will drop away, and we will know peace.**

The sense of calm in our soul,

**and that active peace which compels us to take steps to bring change in our own life, in our church, and for our world.**

Peace and forgiveness are yours!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Amen.**

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *"Count your Blessings"* – solo –  
Mavis, accompanied by Bernice

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS INTO THE CHURCH FAMILY:**

**Kurt & Jennifer Luchia**

**(see insert)**

**CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF EDUCATION:**

**(Recognizing Our 2017 High School Graduates)**

**Opening Prayer:**

Gracious God, you create life from the earth on which we dwell and breathe into it new life and meaning.

Graciously you empower us with knowledge and skills to aid one another as we live out our life on this earth. Bless this moment and this time when we take time to recall your grace and kindness to these young lives that have come to the end of their High School Education and look forward to the next steps in their lives.

Empower each one of them to live lives worthy of the calling you offer, that they may be strengthened and encouraged in the fulfillment or accomplishment of their dreams. Journey with them as and their parents make plans about their futures. In Christ Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Presentation of the Graduates: (see *Rachelle*)**

**Litany of Thanksgiving for Graduation:**

Let us give thanks to the God who guides us to face the challenges and opportunities of life. We thank you, for your leading, your encouragement, your gifts of educators and teachers, of friends and neighbors who have helped us and encouraged us in the opportunities of life. Let us give thanks to God for the families and homes into which these graduating students were born and have been nurtured. We are grateful, for our children and our parents, our homes and families where we learn to grow and experience all the wonders of this life.

God, this is a time of joy for us as we recognize and celebrate the

completion of this phase of their education and move out from here to new directions for their lives.

We ask that you would be with them as they go and strengthen them as they take on new responsibilities in this world. Give them, and us, faith and encouragement as we try to be your servants who live in joy and thankfulness for all we have received. We praise you God, for all your gifts, and for the opportunity to hold this time of recognition and celebration in our church family. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

**BLESSING:** *(in unison)*

**Almighty God, thank you for your love, freely offered for us all.**

**Thank you for this special day, and for all the graduating students here with us today. May they feel a sense of achievement in this milestone, and excitement for what lies ahead. May each one know your presence in their lives, and find ways to use their abilities for your glory and for the furthering of your kingdom on earth.**

**May they continue to live lives of curiosity, discovery, dedication, discipline, compassion and generosity. In doing so, may they be a great blessing to the world. Amen.**

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

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

Matthew 10:24-39:

*Discipleship; lose your life to find it*

**SERMON:**

**REFLECTION:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING:**

**OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 191): "What Can I Do?"**

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

**We would be like you, God,  
and notice the small things that count:  
sparrows that fall, and hairs on our neighbour's head.**

We would be like you, and know what is worth taking a risk. We would be like you, to know what to keep and what to discard. We would be beacons of hope in the world offering strength and compassion. As we encounter you in our lives, we would recognize you and respond to your call. Bless these gifts we offer today and through them, may the world's needs be met.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

God, you speak words of love and assurance to us, and so we come to you with our intercessions.

We pray for ourselves, we ask that in all we do and all we hope to achieve as your children we will look to your example of living a strong and compassionate life.

**May we see everything as sacred and blessed.**

**May we see all of creation as worthy and beloved by you.**

**By your grace may we be lifted beyond our human failing.**

We pray for our friends and neighbours, we pray that we might live in peace with one another despite our differences, our diversity of thought and opinion.

**May we see everything as sacred and blessed.**

**May we see all of creation as worthy and beloved by you.**

**By your grace may we be lifted beyond our human failing.**

We pray for our world, the circle of life that sustains and renews us, we pray that conflict need not to end in destruction, that difference need not to end in animosity, and what unites us will draw us into community.

**May we see everything as sacred and blessed.**

**May we see all of creation as worthy and beloved by you.**

**By your grace may we be lifted beyond our human failing.**

**Amen.**

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

### **SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU 506):** *“Take my life and let it be”*

### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Go from this place as Sarah and Abraham went forth, not knowing where they were going, but knowing that God was leading the way.

Go from this place as Jesus went,

with faith in the power of God to heal  
the wounds of the earth and its people.  
Go from this place as the people of God,  
with faith and hope in God's promise  
of life for all. Go in love and  
peace of God. **Amen.**

**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 (July 2, 2017) Readings:**

*Genesis 22:1-14;  
Psalm 13;  
Romans 6:12-23;  
Matthew 10:40-42.*

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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**

**Monday, June 26th**

@ 2 pm – Naomi Unit Meeting

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**Bible Study**

Bible study will resume after the Thanksgiving Sunday in October.

**FundScrip for July and August**

There **will not** be a FundScrip order for July and August. The next FundScrip deadline will be Thursday, September 21st.

**Scott Woods Concert**

Scott Woods plans to bring his "Christmas Show" to Melfort United Church

Friday, November 13, 2017 @ 7pm

**Join the Handbell Choir**

If you are between the ages of 9 to 17, are able to read music and would like to join a junior hand bell choir in September - see or call Bernice McCosh @ 306.752.2420. See Bernice for more details.

**Wedding Card for Cassandra Grisdale**

If you wish to sign the wedding card and/or make a donation to give to Cassandra Grisdale, bride of Dillon Bumpus – Denise has a card at the Church Office or contact Pat Dolo.

***Stewardship Seconds***

*Yoking ourselves and our financial resources with Jesus and others lightens all our burdens.*