



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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Website: www.melfortunitedchurch.com

Ministers: All of us

Worship Leaders: Chris Corbett

Music:

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter:

Scripture Readers:

ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 7, 2020
Trinity Sunday, 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:

Living God, our caring Creator, we are amazed by the beautiful world you have made that we call our home.

Christ our friend who struggles with us and wraps us in redeeming love, we thank you for the compassion you have modelled for all living creatures, human and nonhuman.

Listening God, Holy Spirit of breath and presence, we are sustained by your active movement in our lives and your radiating presence throughout the world.

Come, let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

God of many blessings, you speak to us through Earth.

**We hear you in the mountains,
in the dance of life, suffering, joy, death, and new life,
and in our innermost hearts.**

**You were there when the stars burst forth,
you have lived among us,
and you are with us now.**

**Help us to hear and care for your beloved Earth and its
creatures, our neighbours. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

**Creator of love and action, as much as we love you,
sometimes we close our ears to your voice. We long to
continue to listen to you, even when it is to know that
Earth is in pain. Help us to be servants to Creation,
sheltering it from harm. We humbly pray to be healers and
caretakers of Earth of both suffering and beauty. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

The Creator guards our lives.

Christ knows our struggles.

The Spirit guides our steps.

All speak to us from the mountains and the rivers,
the cities and towns, the deserts and forests.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SERMON:

Wonder

This is Trinity Sunday, and focuses on the story of creation, God's love for it, and speaks to the responsibility humans have in the care and wonder of our earth.

Active wonder. Repeatedly and frequently seeing what is around us with the true wonder of a child. Active wonder.

Every day the beauty of the earth and all the gifts it gives us should at some point shock you – or in some cases like last Sunday - literally blow you away.

Think of a blind man given the gift of sight. Pretty sure that would fit the definition of Active Wonder.

It's far too easy to be complacent about the beauty that surrounds us. We take for granted the trees, rivers, fields, birds, bees, duck nests, moose, deer, fox and coyote, fish, and the call of the loon. I was lucky enough to be invited out to fish on Tobin Lake last Saturday – in a boat 6 feet away from the other guy. And how gorgeous it was. The water, the colours of the fish, the sky, the trees.....

Put yourself in this time of social distancing and self-isolation in the place of someone in a big city. I'm sure many of you know people living out this pandemic surrounded by concrete and high-rise buildings. I've said many times how lucky we are to be exactly where we are. And surrounded by the people we love. Can you have too much of a good thing? Never mind, asking for a friend.

The readings for today are from Genesis – obviously, as we are talking about creation – but also from 2 Corinthians, chapter 13, which is more about human relations. Both speak of harmony. Harmony with creation and harmony with each other.

Can you think of a more appropriate passage for the turmoil our world seems to be in? 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 says "Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace". As it relates to creation, the passage suggests the true restoration of Earth goes hand in hand with peaceful relations amongst humanity.

Lives matter to everyone. Everyone's life matters. Any colour, any race, any human. There's no place in the world for racism and hatred. And the Earth itself suffers when humans are in conflict. Can you imagine what the earth would be like if we had peace and understanding? And racism and hatred were only found in the annals of history?

Jesus taught us many things, but the greatest of these was love. Love each other as I have loved you.

It shouldn't be hard – it's a simple concept. We are one people. Love each other. Spread that love to the earth and all

it has to give us. It starts with each one of us. We, as people of God, need to be the ones who continue to spread joy and love, to seek understanding and live with compassion. Many are the days when this seems easier said than done. But given the choice – which by God’s grace we have been – it feels a lot better to choose love.

The creation all around us can fuel you to stay on the path of love and compassion. Take the time to re-energize by finding wonder in your day. No matter how hard your day, or sad, somewhere there will be wonder. And it may be in a child’s laugh, the colour of a flower, or the stars in the soon to be summer sky.....but it will be there. Go find it.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING: **PSALM 8** (VU pp. 730- 732)
God, your glorious name.

HEBREW READING: **GENESIS 1:1-2:4a**
The first story of creation.

EPISTLE READING: **2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13**
Agree with one another; live in peace; Trinity.

GOSPEL READING: **MATTHEW 28:16-20**
Go make disciples!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God of active creation, embodied compassion, and abiding presence, we are here to respond to your call. We pray that you will lead us to your voice in the mountains, on the city streets, and across the wide universe that you have created and loved. Bless us with wonder and awe, each and every day. Please help us to use that awe for gratitude and to serve the entire community of creation. Help us to see other creatures as siblings to love and care for. Remind us to ask other creatures about their experience of you. Teach us to help and not to hurt, to love and not to forget, and to embrace with joy all of Earth that you love so much.
Amen.

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 & BLESSING:

The Mountains are calling, and we must go!
Let us go in peace, singing our love to the mountains
and rivers, oceans and forests, flowers and beasts.

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 (June 14, 2020) READINGS:

*Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7);
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;
Romans 5:1-8;
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23).*

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH:

Church Office Hours:
Wednesday & Thursday: 9 am – 3 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 Deadline for June

The next FundScrip deadline is early this month -Thursday, June 18th. The gift cards will be ready for pickup on Thursday, June 25th.

Stewardship Seconds

Emptying our cups creates a space for God's love to fill.