



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: Jodi Allen

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Karen Serviss

Scripture Readers: Marlene Stevenson, Gina McAvoy

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 1, 2020

First Sunday of Lent Year A

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

[ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING]

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:

The church is a group of people gathered together to share in the mission of Christ.

God brings us together in order to share in praise and worship.

The church is a group of people gathered together to share in the mission of Christ.

God provides for us examples of inspiration and encouragement.

The church is a group of people gathered together to share in the mission of Christ.

God directs us to those who can teach by word and by example.

The church is a group of people gathered together.

Together, we share in the mission of Christ.

Together, we worship God.

*[Written by Bill Steadman, L/E 2020
Year A Gathering, p.54].*

OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**O Christ, you have welcomed generations
into your comforting arms.**

**You have embraced and loved them
and brought them peace.**

**You have strengthened and energized them
and sent them out to love and help as you do.**

**Gratefully following the path
our forefathers and mothers have walked before us,
we look forward to continuing our journey with
Christ. Amen.**

*[Written by Kevin Boivin, L/E 2020 Year A
Gathering, p.55].*

HYMN (MV 1) *“Let us build a house”*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

**Loving God in whom we put our trust,
take from us what we need to carry no longer.
Confirm in us the truth by which we rightly live
while confronting us with the truth
from which we wrongly run.**

**We ask not for what we want,
but for what you know we need.**

(Silent Prayer....).

*[Written by Gord Dunbar, L/E 2020 Year A
Gathering, p.55]*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Scripture declares.

The Lord is generous to all who call on God's name.

Friends, believe the good news:

God does not turn away from us, but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom offered in Jesus Christ.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 81) *"Love us into fullness"*

- All verses

CHOIR ANTHEM: *"Follow"* – E. Harris

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 145) *"Draw the circle wide"*

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING:

PSALM 32 (VU p.759):

Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven.

GOSPEL READING:

MATTHEW 4:1-11:

The temptation of Jesus.

REFLECTION:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 540)

“Grant us, God, the grace”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Receive these gifts that we have given,
God, as a symbol of all that we seek to be and to do
in your way. Bless what we have offered and direct
us in the use of these offerings for your glory and for
the well-being of your church and God’s mission
in the world. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:

HYMN (MV 195) *“Long ago and far away”*

INTRODUCTION:

When Jesus sat a Table and enjoyed communion with tax collectors and sinners he proclaimed that God’s care knows no bounds. We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness: all are invited now to share at God’s table, and be nourished by the Bread of Life.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER:

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts:

We lift them up to God.

Let us thank God:

It is good to thank God.

We thank you, God that you have provided for all the worlds that ever were or will be by giving yourself to them in love. If we go to the heights of the mountains, or if we make the grave our bed, you are with us. If we go to the depths of the sea, your right hand holds us fast. We thank you for Jesus, your Word, who lived among us, uncovering your presence. We thank you that you stamped his death with victory and that life, not death, was the final word. We ask now that you bless us, as we share this bread and cup, that we might be

nourished by that same unbounded love and so be encouraged to be your servants to the world. And now, as your daughters and sons whom you have reconciled to yourself, we pray and as your Holy Spirit is sent upon these gifts we are about to share, we pray in the words of Jesus saying,

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

BREAKING OF THE BREAD:

As this grain once was scattered in the fields and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread. Take the Bread of Life.

POURING OF THE CUP:

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus. Take. Drink. The cup of the New Covenant. God is with you.

SHARING BREAD AND CUP: (DISTRIBUTION)

Please say, *“the Bread of Life”* for the sharing of bread and *“the Cup of Blessing”* for the sharing of the cup.

COMMUNION ANTHEM(S):

HYMN (MV 202) *“Bread for the journey”*

HYMN (VU 471) *“Eat this bread and never hunger”*

HYMN (VU 469) *“We gather here (Come, share the Lord)”*

HYMN (VU 480) *“Let us break bread together”*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: *(in unison)*

**For what we have eaten, for what we have sipped,
for what we have received – bread, wine, and life
– thank you, God! May this moment fill us and
change us. May this moment fill and change your
world. In Christ's name. Amen.**

[From Flames of the Spirit and L/E. 2020 Year A Gathering, p.70].

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving God, Source of life, source of true community, you call us together, and you call us to faithfulness, for we are your community in this time and in this place. We remember those who have worshipped and served your people here and are now in your closer and loving presence. As we remember them, we pray for their families and loved ones. With your guidance, Loving God, we will help and support them. As we gather in our annual meeting to reflect on the past, help us to face the realities of the present with courage, and fearlessly vision into the future with new insights. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 108)

“Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights”

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

In the Season of Lent we will journey inward to encounter God's presence in our daily lives; we will journey outward to encounter God's presence in all of creation, and we will journey onward beyond what we know.

By faith, we will discover who we are and who we want to be.

Go in peace to learn, serve, and share in the abundance for which you were created.

We belong to one another.

CHORAL BLESSING “*My Peace*” – K. Routledge

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**Seasons of the Spirit- Seasons FUSION Lent-Easter 2020; Flames of the Spirit, Resources for Worship Like Bread for the Journey; The United Church of Canada Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2019-2020 and Lent-Easter 2020 Year*

A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners.
Used with permission.

NEXT WEEK'S (MARCH 8, 2020) READINGS:

Genesis 12:1-4a;
Psalm 121;
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17;
John 3:1-17.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome:

Welcome to worship here today. Whether you are worshipping with us today for the first time or you have been here before or longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Sometimes you may be invited to stand and you want to stay sitting, or you might feel comfortable standing but no one else is. Do what feels right and comfortable for you. We each bring something of ourselves to worship, and it enhances the experience for each of us. Please remember to sign our guest book at the entrance of the church and stay back for a cup of coffee and conversation at the CE Centre immediately following the service.

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH:

Tuesday, March 3rd

@ 7 pm – Women Alive

Wednesday, March 4th

@ 4:40 pm – Worship Committee Meeting

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, March 5th

@ 10:30 – Bible Study

@ 4:15 – Bell Choir

Rev. Emmanuel's Office Hours & Contact Information

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Office Number: 306.752.4312 Cell Number: 306.930.4093
For emergency pastoral care call 306.930.4093

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've changed your address or phone number, please advise the Church Office so that we can keep your information current.

Thank you!

FundScrip Deadline for February

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, March 26th. The gift cards will be ready for pickup on Thursday, April 2nd.

Music! Music! You Don't Want to Miss a Sunday

March 8th – “*My Song to the Lord*” – Besig & Price
March 15th – “*My Lord What a Mornin*” – R. Schram
March 22nd – “*Consecration*” – J. Beck

World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 6th

This year the Salvation Army Church is hosting the World Day of Prayer. The 2020 host country is Zimbabwe. The theme this year is *Rise! Take your mat and walk!* The service is at 2 pm.

We hope to see you there.

Stew Supper

Tuesday, March 17th, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Adults: \$13

12 and Under: \$7

Preschool: Free

Immediate Family: \$35

There is a signup sheet for deserts and biscuits on the easel in the foyer.

Easter Newsletter

The Easter newsletter will be coming out in April. All people wishing to contribute to the newsletter are asked to get their submissions in by 9am on Tuesday, March 31st. Submissions can be dropped off at the church office or emailed to melfortuc@sasktel.net.

Church Pictorial Directory

IPC Canada will be coming back to our church to take family photographs on April 3rd - 2:30 - 8:30, April 4th - 9:30 – 3:00, April 20th & 21st – 8:30 – 3:30. A table will be set up in the CE Centre on March 1st & 8th to accept bookings. Or call Sharon Heavin (752-4020) to book your appointment.

rendez-vous 2020 – Faith Gone Wild

August 11 – 14, 2020 @ The University of Calgary. A poster is on the bulletin board in the foyer. For more information visit their website

<http://uccrendezvous.ca>

Stewardship Seconds

Recognizing the temptations of advertising, and making faithful decisions, changes our identity from consumer to steward.