



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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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: May Mann

Scripture Readers: Bea White, Gale Strachan

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 12, 2017

Second Sunday in Lent - Year A

WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MUSICAL PRELUDE:

GREETING & WELCOME:

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We gather as a people for whom faith matters.

O God, deepen our faith.

We gather as a people rejoicing in memory.

O God, hallow our tradition.

We gather as a people committed to the church.

O God, give us joy in serving Jesus Christ.

We gather as a people who proclaim the Good News.

In word and deed, your justice and compassion shine out, O God.

HYMN (VU 216): *"Sing praise to God, who reigns above"*

OPENING PRAYER:

It is very easy for us to forget that our relationship with our Creator goes back far into the mists of our collective memory.

On this second Sunday in Lent, we remember that call that was made to Abraham and Sarah, and the promise that was theirs.

The call to them was not a once only call, but an ongoing, perpetual call to fulfil God's will for all of creation.

We too are called, each one of us. We are not always comfortable with that call, nor do we always honour it but each of us is called.

We are called to be faithful: to trust in what the future is, even though we don't know, or can't imagine what God has in store for us.

God of our forebears, you call us to be faithful, in newness and in the unknown. Help us on our Lenten journey to trust you that wherever you may lead us we will always sense your loving embrace. In the name of Jesus, the one who trusted you, we make this prayer. Amen.

HYMN (VU 663): *"My faith looks up to thee"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: (in unison)

Generous God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not.

We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead.

We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require.

We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change.

Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Friends, God is for us and not against us!

For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world

not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 64) verse 5: *"Because you came on Easter morning"*

CHOIR ANTHEM: *"Peter on de Sea, Sea, Sea, Sea"* – P. Ouchterlony

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV166) *"Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ"*

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Psalm 121 (VU p. 844):
I lift my eyes to the hills

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 12:1-4a:

God calls Abram to be a blessing.

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17:

The promise of God rests on grace.

John 3:1-17:

Nicodemus learns that "God so loved the world."

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (in unison)

We bring you gifts, O God, knowing that they are but a small offering. Yet we know you can take what we offer, and use it in amazing ways to do amazing work. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Ever-Present God, we come to you in prayer for people of our world who find themselves in places and moments of transition. For those who journey into unknown and unseen places, saying “yes” to you without knowing where the path may lead, we pray that their feet will not slip.

For those who dare to step out into the night, to venture into uncertain places to be with those who are in need, we pray for your presence also that they will always know your care.

For those who dare to give voice to their questions, to demonstrate a desire to know more, to challenge voices that deride, put down, and to condemn, who will not accept partial or unsuitable answers, we pray they are reminded that their souls are in your very hands, and that no matter what happens, they are still yours.

Protect us on all our journeys, O God, that wherever we go we may find glimpses of grace.

We pray for those who are struggling with a new challenge or call; with a major transition in life or livelihood. Keep in your tender care and mercy, O God, those who are sick in body and spirit, those recuperating from surgery or accident. Protect not only us and those we love, but also the whole wide world you so love.

In places of war, bring peace; in places beset by natural disaster, bring calm and restoration; where there is unrest and injustice, make justice our aim. Where hope has grown tired and thin, lift our sights so that we may see hope beyond hope, life beyond death, and you, lifted up before us. For these prayers spoken aloud and those held in the comfort of our hearts, answer them in your love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 644) – *“I was there to hear your burning cry”*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Go out in faith, trusting in God’s sense of direction. Remember how much God loves this world in the name of Christ, that your testimony becomes the good news someone else has been waiting to receive.

As you go out and come in, may God keep you by sunlight and moonlight; may Christ encompass you with love; and may the Holy Spirit empower you with new life; now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Prayer Resources:

**Seasons of the Spirit -Seasons FUSION Lent-Easter 2017; Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 Advent through Pentecost Worship Companion; Gather@united-church.ca Drama File Lent/Easter 2017; the United Church of Canada Lent-Easter 2017 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

Next Week’s (March 19, 2017 -Lent 3A) Readings:

Psalm 95; Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42.

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:

Monday, March 13th

@11:00pm Tamarack Presbytery Executive Meeting

Wednesday, March 15th

@ 5:00 – 6:30pm – Stew Supper

@ 7pm – Choir

Thursday, March 16th

@ 10:30am – Bible Study

@ 12:00pm –Lenten Lunch

@ 4:15pm – Bell Choir

Reminder for Next Sunday – March 19th

Greeter: Dorothy Busby

Ushers: Cheryl Sproule & Gina McAvoy

Coffee Makers: Elaine Welter & Gina Woodard

Readers: Gwendolyn Mills Wood & Jean Senecal

PowerPoint: Anne McIntosh

March 15th – Stew Supper

Wednesday, March 15th from 5:00 pm to 6:30pm

Adults: \$12

12 & under: \$7

Preschool: Free

Immediate Family: \$30

March 23rd – Board Meeting @ 7:15 pm

Please come prepared to select/elect the Officers (Board Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary) as well as the Officers and Chair for the various committees. Thank you!

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation class can begin anytime candidates are available. Please see the minister if you would like you or your child to go through baptism or confirmation process.

FundScrip Deadline for March

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, March 23rd.

Newsletter

The Spring newsletter will be coming out soon. All people wishing to contribute to the newsletter are asked to get their submissions in by 9am on Thursday, March 23rd. Submissions can be dropped off at the church office or emailed to melfortuc@sasktel.net.

Stewardship Second

*All that God has given is ours to share with those who seek
God's help through us.*