



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

---

Office: (306) 752-2288 Email: [melfortuc@sasktel.net](mailto:melfortuc@sasktel.net)

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: Dorothy Busby

Scripture Readers: Marion Heavin, Gloria Stushnoff

---

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**March 15, 2020**  
**Third Sunday in Lent 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:**

We are on a journey of faith.

**We travel with Jesus Christ as our guide.**

The promises of God shine like a star before us and give us strength.

**But still, in the wilderness, we become impatient and rebellious, and lose our way.**

We gather, seeking to be fed by the manna of God's Word, to rediscover the paths of righteousness.

**O God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Glory be to you in Jesus Christ and in the church to all generations. Amen.**

**HYMN (MV 117)** *“By the well, a thirsty woman”*

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

**Holy One, today we stop with Jesus by a well, where he meets a woman whose culture and religion are different from his own. But he doesn't acknowledge their differences when he looks at her – he notices the common thing they share. They both seek water. He perceives a person, who, like himself, is thirsty. In that moment, the only thing that matters is her humanity and her need for water, companionship, and a listening ear. As we continue to make our way through these Lenten days and nights, may we be vigilant as we seek to see the humanity in every person we meet and respond with care and kindness. Amen.**

*[Written by Susan Ivany, L/E 2020 Year A Gathering, page 33].*

**HYMN (VU pp. 766-767)** *“As the deer pants for water”*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

O God, you recall our words, spoken in anger, spoken without thought.

**Give us the ability to speak the words that calm, and the attitude that encourages and brings peace.**

O God, you are aware of friendships that are unhealthy, the relationships that lack trust.

**Give us the ability to understand the reasons for disharmony, and the willingness to bring change.**

O God, you know well the actions that have hurt, and those times when we have held back from support and care.

**Give us the courage to follow where our conscience leads, and the patience to persevere.**

O God, you feel our uncertain faith and our lack of commitment to the community of Jesus Christ.

**Give us the determination to learn and grow in faith, and to work with others to make clear the significance of Jesus for today.**

*(Time of silent reflection).*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God, thank you for giving us life even in  
the midst of death.  
May your Spirit gush up within us, washing  
away everything that keeps us from loving  
you and your creation. **Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 85)**

*“Take, O take me as I am”*

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *“My Lord What a Mornin”* – R. Schram

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US**

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (MV 92)** *“Like a rock”*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**RESPONSORIAL READING:**

**PSALM 95 (VU p.814):**

*Let us shout to the rock of our  
salvation.*

**HEBREW READING:**

**EXODUS 17:1-7:**

*Water from the rock.*

**GOSPEL READING:**

**JOHN 4:5-30:**

*Jesus and the Samaritan woman.*

**SERMON:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING:**

## OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 540)

*“Grant us, God, the grace”*

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

Gracious God, as we approach the well,  
we are given the water of life.

As we approach the well, we give our gifts  
that we have to share, so that others may  
never thirst. We come to the well, asking  
your blessings on these gifts.

We come to the well, to share in the gifts  
of love and living water. Amen.

*[Written by Fraser Williamson, L/E 2020 Year A  
Gathering, page 38].*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Wellspring of mercy,  
hear our prayer. Saving God, you are the giver of living water, the  
source of deepest compassion, the fountain of eternal life. Therefore  
we pray to you: Wellspring of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all who are thirsty – thirsty for a life of meaning, thirsty for a word  
of grace, thirsty for a drink of water. Wellspring of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all who are weary – weary from life’s long journey, weary from  
quarreling and testing, weary from pain or grief. Wellspring of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all who are broken – broken by sin and suffering, broken by hard  
disappointment, broken by acts of violence. Wellspring of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all those affected and infected by the Coronavirus disease or any  
other disease that they may be healed. For all those in science and  
research trying to find the cure for the disease that they may succeed  
in their endeavor. Wellspring of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, through your Spirit, pour your love into our hearts, your  
grace into our lives, your healing into our world, until the earth is filled  
with your glory as the waters cover the sea; through Jesus Christ we  
pray. **Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

**HYMN (VU 651)** *“Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”*

### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

The hour is coming and is now here.  
Go forth to worship the Lord your God  
in spirit and in truth, in all that you say and do.  
May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, springing  
up like living water, fill your heart, and flow  
through your life as you go out in peace!

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

### **PRAYER RESOURCES:**

*\*Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Lent-Easter 2020;  
Flames of the Spirit, Resources for Worship like Bread  
for the Journey; Prayers to Share, Responsive Prayers for each  
Sunday of the Church Year; Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for  
Year A, Volume 1 Advent through Pentecost Worship Companion;  
The United Church of Canada Lent-Easter 2020 Year A Gathering  
Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

### **NEXT WEEK’S (MARCH 22, 2020) READINGS:**

*1 Samuel 16:1-13;  
Psalm 23;  
Ephesians 5:8-14;  
John 9:1-41.*

### **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 17<sup>th</sup>

@ 5 – 6:30 pm – St. Patrick's Day Stew Supper

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

@ 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 March**

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

**Rev. Emmanuel's Farewell – March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Please join us for Rev. Emmanuel's last service with us on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. A short program will follow the service. Coffee and cake are being served.

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

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – "Consecration" – J. Beck

**Board Member Appreciation**

Thank you to those board members who have completed their terms. Those leaving the board are Don Meier, Ron Nielsen, Ryan Heavin, Doug Lyon, Elaine Welter and Cheryl Sproule.

**Stew Supper**

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Hymn Sing – Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Hymn sing beginning @ 10:15 am. Come early and sing some hymns! It might be one of your favorites!

**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 31<sup>st</sup>. Submissions can be dropped off at the church office or emailed to [melfortuc@sasktel.net](mailto:melfortuc@sasktel.net).

**Church Pictorial Directory**

IPC Canada will be coming back to our church to take family photographs on April 3<sup>rd</sup> - 2:30 - 8:30, April 4<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 – 300, April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> – 8:30 – 3:30. Call Sharon Heavin (752-4020) to book your appointment.

*Stewardship Seconds*

*Stewardship begins in spiritual formation: God's love poured into thirsty hearts keeps us alive during wilderness experiences.*