



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: Grace Wilton

Scripture Readers: Lorne Anderson, Imogene Annand

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 26, 2017
Fourth Sunday in Lent - Year A

WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MUSICAL PRELUDE:

GREETING & WELCOME:

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Lead us gently as we worship, O God.

With you we have everything we need.

You give us calm in the midst of stress,
the light of hope when the world seems dark.

You strengthen and restore us.

You enable us to make the right choices,
and sustain us in the fearful times.

You are a good friend to us.

You, O God, are the source of a life that is
faithful and fulfilling;

**As day follows day, as year follows year;
all through life!**

HYMN (VU 273): *"The king of love"*

OPENING PRAYER:

Children of the light, worship your God with joy!

**The gifts of each new day, the ties of family
and friends, bring us to God with thanksgiving.**

Children of the light, worship your God in community!

**The traditions of the church, the witness
of wonderful saints, bring us to God
with thanksgiving.**

Children of the light, worship your God with just acts!

**The inclusion of those looked down upon,
the acceptance of the disadvantaged,
bring us to God with thanksgiving.**

Children of the light, worship your God, known in
Christ!

**Jesus' ministry of compassion and his
sacrifice of the cross, bring us to God
with thanksgiving. Amen.**

Hymn (VU 509): *"I the Lord of sea and sky"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

For those times when we have been too blind
to see what is going on around us,

O God, **forgive us.**

For those times when we have turned away,
preferring not to see realities that we are uncertain
about, O God, **forgive us.**

For those times when we have wrung our hands,
wishing things would change, without taking
the steps we could have to help them change,
O God, **forgive us.**

For those times when we discounted others'
stories rather than confront truths that made
us uncomfortable, O God, **forgive us.**

Open our eyes and our hearts, loving God,
and enable us to see the realities you place
before us. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear these words from scripture:

“God doesn’t look at things like humans do.
Humans see only what is visible to the eyes,
but God sees into the heart.”

So know, friends, that God forgives you all
that weighs upon you, and sets you free
to new and everlasting life.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 64):

Verse 5: *“Because you came on Easter morning”*

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“Just Let Me Sing”* – M. Donnelly

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (VU 585): *“Jesus bids us shine”*

A New Creed (VU p. 918)

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Psalm 23 (VU p. 747): *(sung)*
The Lord’s My Shepherd.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Ephesians 5:8-14:
Live as children of the light.

John 9:1-41:
Jesus heals the man born blind.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 182): "Grateful"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (in unison)

We offer these gifts in gratitude for healing love, strengthening presence, and hope when things seem hopeless.

May these in some small way communicate your love with those around us, and with those around the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God our faithful Shepherd, we depend on you for everything we need: for daily food, for guidance and protection, for healing in injury and comfort in sorrow. You respond in abundant provision. Thank you for your tender care of us. Thank you for soothing the wounds of this life. Thank you that in the presence of enemies, especially the last enemy of death, you are with us, as Shepherd, Host, Home.

Knowing your faithfulness in our lives, we bring before you the lives of others, the cares of this world, entrusting all things to your goodness and mercy. Bring healing to those who are held captive by old hurts or new bonds that oppress and entangle. Bring freedom to those unjustly accused, relief to those burdened with debt, comfort to all who suffer from abuse of any kind.

We pray for people living precariously in the midst of war. Protect, we pray, citizens and soldiers alike, and teach us to put away our weapons, taking up instead words of peace and reconciliation. By the power at work in Jesus Christ, break down the walls of hostility we build so that we may learn to live together graciously.

We remember those living in the midst of drought and famine: people of Somalia, Ethiopia, and many more. We pray for rain to fall and for crops to grow, and for generosity to overflow from our own hands and resources, until all your children receive their daily bread; until all your children have clean water to drink; until when all your children have adequate shelter and medical care. Compel us

to be better stewards of creation so that our habitation is sustainable and responsible.

Loving God, help us to see the world as you see it; to see others as you see them; and to see ourselves rightly, too. Because you have come into this world for judgment, we can leave our judgments behind. Pursue us all with your goodness and faithful love until goodness and faithful love fills every heart and informs every action.

We pray these things in the name of the one who came that we might see, Jesus Christ, Our Lord and our Light. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 567): *"Will you come and follow"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Arise! Shine! For the light of Christ is upon you.
Go into the world bearing the fruit of Christ's
light so that all might see what is good and
right and true; and live as children of the
light to the glory of God.
May the love of God pursue you, the light
of Christ enfold you, and the Holy Spirit
keep you; as you dwell in the house of the Lord
your whole life long. **Amen.**

CHORAL BLESSING: *"My Peace" – K. Routledge*

Prayer Resources:

*Seasons of the Spirit - Seasons FUSION Lent-Easter 2017;
Prayers to Share Year A, Responsive Prayers for Each
Sunday of the Church Year; Feasting on the Word,
Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1 Advent through Pentecost;
The United Church of Canada Lent-Easter 2017 Year A
Gathering Resources for Worship Planners.
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Next Week's (April 2, 2017) Readings:

Ezekiel 37:1-14;

Psalm 130;

Romans 8:6-11;

John 11:1-45.

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 27th

@ 2 pm – Naomi Unit

Wednesday, March 29nd

The office will be closed for the day.

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, March 30th

@ 10:30am – Bible Study

@ 12 pm – Lenten Lunch

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

Reminder for Next Sunday – April 2nd

Greeter: Lorne Anderson

Ushers: Gale & Garry Forsyth

Coffee Makers: Sylvia Kellington & Pat Clarke

Readers: Judy Meier, Chris Corbett

PowerPoint: Eskowich Family

Let the Church Music Serenade You into Spring

- April 2nd – “Ave Marie” – Judy & Bernice – Piano & Organ Duet
April 9th – “Hosanna! Hosanna!” – J. Martin
April 16th – “Easter Anthem” – A. Herring
April 23rd – Graydon Eskowich – Piano Solo
April 30th – “Disciples of Christ” – Besig & Price

Spring Garage Sale

Christian Education Centre
Friday, May 5th, 9 am – 5 pm
Saturday, May 6th, 9am – 12 pm

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, April 20th.

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 30th. Submissions can be dropped off at the church office or emailed to melfortuc@sasktel.net.

Stewardship Second

Mission is all around us.