



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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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: Tracey Smetaniuk

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Kim Eskowich

Scripture Readers: Marlene Stevenson, Grace Wilton

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 5, 2017

First Sunday in Lent - Year A

*[Holy Communion Service]*

### WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**MUSICAL PRELUDE:**

**GREETING & WELCOME:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Come into the wilderness.

Come to this place away from the world.

**We come to find ourselves ever more in  
the presence of God.**

Come, as Jesus did, and rest a while.

**When we rest, we find ourselves refreshed  
and renewed.**

Come, knowing that the wilderness is not a place  
to be feared, but a place to be enjoyed.

**We come to find ourselves in this place.**

Come into this sacred place, and let us worship God.

**HYMN (VU 559):** *"Come, O fount of every blessing"*

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Loving God, today we begin our Lenten adventure, a time of anticipation and wonder, yet always overshadowed by the reality of the cross. We come to this season hoping that we might hear again in the stories of scripture truths about your love for your people, and find ourselves renewed in faith. Amen.

**HYMN (MV135):** *"Called by earth and sky"*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

The Bible tells us of the three temptations Jesus endured in the wilderness. Each time, he rejected them, and found himself strengthened by that process. Let us now take some time to ponder these temptations, and how they apply to our own lives, that we too might find ourselves strengthened.

Jesus was challenged to turn stones into bread. He was invited to take the easy way out, and he chose not to do that. When are we tempted to take shortcuts, at the expense of others, or at the risk of injustice, or in the knowledge that it is against God's will? Let us reflect on this, and offer it to God. *(pause)* We do not live by bread alone, but by every word spoken by God. Jesus was challenged to throw himself off a high place, trusting that God would rescue him and prevent him from coming to harm. When do we tempt fate, or place ourselves in harmful and difficult positions, trusting simply that God will rescue us? *(pause)* Do not test your God.

Jesus was offered all the kingdom of the world if he would but turn from God, and worship the tempter. When are we tempted to turn away from God, to turn towards ourselves, and worship our own success? *(pause)* Let us worship God alone.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Know that, just as Jesus resisted the temptations that came to him in the wilderness, so God will help us resist temptations if we but turn to God in honesty and openness. Do so, and know that you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *"My Soul is Thirsting for You – S.Angrisano –Featuring – Tracey & Mavis*

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US**

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (MV 157)** *"I am a child of God"*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**Psalm 32 (VU p.759):**

*Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven.*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7:**

*The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

**Romans 5:12-19:**

*Through one came death; through one came life.*

**Matthew 4:1-11:**

*The temptations of Jesus.*

**SERMON:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING INVITATION:**

As God so freely offers us the gift of life in Jesus Christ, let us respond with gratitude, offering our lives to God.

**OFFERING:**

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

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

**We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the free and abundant gift of grace you have given us in Jesus Christ. Let the simple gifts of our lives be a sign of our unending gratitude for your undying love; through Jesus Christ, our Friend. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**HYMN (MV 195):** *"Long ago and far away"*

## **COMMUNION LITURGY:**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One, in this dry and weary land we give you thanks and praise. You provide for us in our need; you set a table for us in the wilderness.

Even when we despair and complain against you, you feed us with bread from heaven. Even when we quarrel and question your grace, you give us water from a stone. How can we keep silent? Even dry bones in the valley of death stand to sing your praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus, our way in the wilderness, our companion in the desert. He knows our hunger and thirst; he gives us the bread of life to eat and living water to drink. He leads us beside still water and prepares this table for us, even in the presence of our enemies. The cup of blessing overflows!

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, this is my body, given for you. On that same night he took the cup, saying, this is the new covenant, sealed in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me.

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## **PRAYER FOR THE COMMUNITY:**

With all the faithful, let us pray to the Lord, who is our hiding place in times of trouble, who surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance.

We pray for all who are hungry - whether hungry for power and glory or hungry for a simple meal. Show the mighty that you alone can satisfy their deepest need, and feed the poor from the abundance of your good creation.

We pray for the church in times of trial - whether tested by tempestuous change or tempted by safety of the status quo. Give us peace when anger and fear threaten to divide us, and challenge us when we are too comfortable in this world.

We pray for leaders in high places - whether determined to help those who suffer or distant from the cries of the oppressed. Open their eyes to

see your saving power at work, and open their eyes to hear your prophets' call for justice.

We pray for the sick in our church and community, and all who suffer in any way. Be their source of healing and comfort this day, and in the days to come.

Lord God, instruct us in the way we should go and let your steadfast love surround us always; in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Now pour out your Holy Spirit upon this bread, this cup, this dry and weary land.

By the power of your Spirit, breathe life into our dust and hope into our bones.

As we receive this bread and this cup, make us one flesh and one blood, one in the body of Christ. Let us live to sing your praise and show your love to all, until our wilderness wandering is over, and we feast with you forever in the land that you have promised.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, in unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, O God, now and always. **Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**COMMUNION ANTHEM (MV 501):** *"Break Now the Bread of Life"*

**DISTRIBUTION OR SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP:**

**PLEASE SAY** *"Bread of Life,"* for Bread  
and *"Cup of Blessing,"* for Cup.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:** *(in unison)*

**For the bread that we have eaten,  
for the wine that we have tasted,  
for the life that you have given:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
We will praise you.**

**SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU 651):** *"Guide me, O thou great Jehovah"*

**COMMISSIONING & BLESSING:**

And now may God, who knows the secrets of our hearts,  
who loves us inside and out, through and through,

be our source, guide, and destination as we continue our Lenten journey. May we know ourselves to be so touched by God's love that we will share that love with all we meet and work for justice and for peace for all God's people.  
Go in peace.

**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; Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship; The United Church of Canada Lent-Easter 2017 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

**Next Week's (Sunday, March 12, 2017) Readings:**

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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*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:**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

-Fouillard's is installing the flooring in the kitchen.

**Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>-**

@ 7 pm – Women Alive

**Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

@ 7 pm – Choir practice

**Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

@ 10:30 am – Bible Study

@ 12 pm – Melfort Ministerial/Lenten lunch @ Melfort Covenant Church

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

**Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

@ 10 am - Pastoral Care

**Sunday – March 12<sup>th</sup> – Food Bank Sunday**

**Greeter:** May Mann

**Ushers:** Kathleen & Kelly Copeland

**Coffee Makers:** Noon Luncheon

**Readers:** Bea White, Gale Strachan

**PowerPoint:** Eskowich Family

**March 15<sup>th</sup> – Stew Supper**

Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm to 6:30pm

Adults: \$12

12 & under: \$7

Preschool: Free

Immediate Family: \$30

**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 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**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](mailto:melfortuc@sasktel.net).

***Stewardship Second***

*Do you always do just what you've always done? Find ways to become a positive change in the world.*