



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: Tracey Smetaniuk

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Glenn George

Scripture Readers: Cheryl Sproule, Bea White

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 8, 2020
Second 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 gather as pilgrims on a journey of faith.

We come seeking the awareness of God's presence as we travel on.

We come seeking the light for our darkness, strength in our weakness.

**Shine in our hearts, O God, with the light of your love.
Make your presence known through Jesus the Christ.
Amen.**

HYMN (VU 108)

“Throughout these Lenten Days and Nights”

OPENING PRAYER:

(based on Psalm 119:105): (in unison)

Abraham and Sarah went out, not knowing where they were headed, because they trusted in you.

Jesus went forward to his death in Jerusalem, trusting in your purpose.

Help us, like them, to take you at your word, and thus to move onward in faith. Be the lamp to our feet, and the light to our path, through your Spirit of life and wisdom. Amen.

HYMN (VU 663) *“My faith looks up to thee”*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

Gracious 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.

Life and love break our hearts, but we do not have to live in fear or anger.

Forgive us, we pray.

Teach us about our true selves, so we will recognize your presence and promises in ourselves and in each other. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

All people in all places are part of God’s promise to forgive and be forgiven. We accept the gift of grace and invite each other to walk in grace.

We are forgiven, and so we give freely and bless abundantly as God has done for us. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 85)

“Take, O take me as I am”

CHOIR ANTHEM: “My Song to the Lord”

– Besig & Price

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 166) “Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ”

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING:

PSALM 121 (VU p.844):

I lift my eyes to the hills.

HEBREW READING:

GENESIS 12:1-4a:

God calls Abram to be a blessing.

EPISTLE READING:

ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17:

The promise of God rests on grace.

GOSPEL READING:

JOHN 3:1-17:

Nicodemus learns that “God so loved the world.”

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 540)

“Grant us, God, the grace”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

New life is your gift to us, O God; may these gifts bring new life.

**Hope to the despairing, confidence to the faltering,
peace to the suffering, faith to the doubting,
a word to the questioning, a light for the dying.**

Bless these our gifts, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, your blessing for us. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God our helper, we thank you for keeping our lives always in your care and protection and pray for any and all who are in harm's way. For those walking in the midst of danger, for those who are treading a slippery path, for those exhausted and seeking relief, for those who face a mountain of worry of debt or any other obstacles. Be Guardian and Guide, we pray, setting all our feet on your paths of righteousness and peace.

We pray for those who are struggling with a new challenge or call, with a major transition in life or livelihood, with their faith and understanding, with grief, ancient or new. Keep in your tender care and mercy, O God, those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit, those weighed down by depression or pain, 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 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. In the name of Christ, who gave himself for our sake, we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 657) *"He leadeth me"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Go out in faith, trusting in God's sense of direction.

Remember how much God loves this world
and so love the 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.

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; 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 15, 2020) READINGS:

Exodus 17:1-7;

Psalms 95;

Romans 5:1-11;

John 4:5-42.

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:

Wednesday, March 11th

@ 7 pm Choir

Thursday, March 12th

@ 10:30 am – Bible Study

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

Friday, March 13th

@ 10 am – Pastoral Care

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 26th. The gift cards will be ready for pickup on Thursday, April 2nd.

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

March 15th – *"My Lord What a Mornin"* – R. Schram

March 22nd – *"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.

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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.

Hymn Sing – Sunday, March 22nd

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 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.

Stewardship Seconds

*Stewards dream a holy vision of new relationship to
God, to the earth, to all others.*