



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: Les Holoien

Scripture Readers: Kim Eskowich, Wendy Eskowich

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 14, 2014

Fifth Sunday of Easter – Year A

(Christian Family Sunday)

Holy Communion Service

Food Bank Sunday/Noon Lunch

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:

Today we celebrate the mothering gifts that women and men have to share:

**nurturing and encouraging,
nourishing and healing,
enabling and teaching,
sustaining and letting go.**

**Let us lift our voices together in worship,
remembering the mothering Christ who bore us
to eternal life.**

*[Written by Kate Crawford. Lent-Easter 2017 Year A
Gathering, page 46. Used with permission].*

HYMN (MV 1): *"Let us build a house"*

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

**We come as one family:
seeking your presence,
celebrating our faith,
supporting one another,
walking together through change.
Be with us all today,
especially those who mourn the passing
of someone or something that has been so
important.
Make us all aware of your never-ending
love and care. Amen.**

[Written by Beth W. Johnston. Lent-Easter 2017 Year A, page 46. Used with permission].

HYMN (MV 154): *"Deep in our hearts"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

**Deepen our understanding of family, God,
that we may perceive the hidden hurt,
encourage the neglected talent, meet
the unspoken need.
Widen our understanding of family, God,
that we may support the powerless stranger,
recognize our struggling neighbor.
Make holy our understanding of family, God,
that your light may defeat the darkness,**

**Christ's acceptance mark our relationships,
and the Spirit renew our faith community.**

(Time of Silent reflection and confession).

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Life within families – human families

and the family of Jesus Christ – requires reflection,
commitment, and hard, faithful work.

Are you willing to grow and to mature in your family life?

We are willing.

Then may God grant you pardon, peace, and a new
beginning.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 115):

*"Behold, behold I make all things
new"*

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"Love Will Be our Home"* – S.
Patti, arr. M. Huff

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (VU 345): *"Come, children join to sing"*

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 (VU p.758, Parts One and Three):
My times are in your hands.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Acts 7:55-60:

Stephen is stoned.

1 Peter 2:2-10:

A chosen race, a royal priesthood, living stones.

John 14:1-14:

I am the way, the truth, the life.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 191): *"What can I do?"*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**Almighty God, receive the gifts we bring
in gratitude for your astounding goodness.
Make our lives to be an acceptable offering
in union with our risen Lord, who lives
and reigns with you forever. Use it to grow
and sustain your family of faith in
the world. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE:

Welcome friends and relations!

We meet here in the house of the Creator at the great feasting table.

The Holy One who walked with our ancestors, walks with us now, and will walk with our children for years to come.

In the very air that we breathe, in the sound of whistling wind and in the slap of the waves on the shore,

we give you thanks for your presence.

In the sound of children's laughter, and in the songs of our elders:

we give you thanks for your presence.

Lift up your broken hearts:

We lift them up to God.

Let us honour our Creator.

It is right to honour God.

It is right to honour God and to give our thanks.

We give our thanks to God.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Creator and Giver of all life, Source of love.

We bless you for all your gifts.

You brought creation to birth and sent prophets to awaken us to your great dream – a dream in which everyone is treated with dignity and love,

justice and mercy,
honour and hospitality.

We praise you for elders and prophets, visionaries and leaders, teachers and preachers, all who have shared the great truth of your love.

We praise you for our brother Jesus, Love in Human Form, who showed to us in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in tenderness and compassion, your Great Heart of Love.

With the flying ones, the swimming ones, the four-legged ones, and the crawling ones, with rocks and trees, mountains and plains, with all creation, we humans raise our voices to you as we sing:

All Sing: MV 206 *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might;
heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in God's name.
Hosanna in the highest.**

As we gather at this feasting table, we remember that on the night before he died, Jesus feasted with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Whenever you feast together, remember me.”

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying:

“Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood. Whenever you drink together, remember me.”

Remembering your boundless love shown to us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the great mystery of our faith:

All Sing: MV 207 “Memorial Acclamation”

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Holy Spirit, unite us at this feast and may it strengthen us to live the resurrected and reconciled life of Christ in creation.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Let us rejoice that we are members of a loving Creator's family.

Help us remember, God, that we have been placed in each other's care as members of that family.

Let us rejoice that we are members of this family of faith.

Through this family we learn the good news of God's love. Through those who nurture us, God, you lead us to affirm our worth, and to live fully through life's challenges and crosses, blessings and graces.

Let us rejoice that we are one among the Creator's many families.

We belong to a family of families, who call upon your name in many languages, cultures, and creeds. Sisters and brothers who bring a variety of abilities and insights, and with whom you call us to enjoy the wonders of sister-brother earth.

Indeed! Let us rejoice that we are all children of one Holy Mother-Father God. In Jesus' name we pray.

All Sing: MV 208 "Great Amen"

**Amen, Amen,
Amen, Amen!**

Prayer of Jesus (*Our Mother and Father*)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

*the Bread of Life.
the Cup of Blessing.*

WELCOME TO THE TABLE:

Come, for all things are now ready.

Come to the table with all your kin and share

with all in need -

the gift of healing for those of us in pain,
the gift of reconciliation for those of us estranged,
the gift of assurance for those of us in doubt,
and the gift of hope for those of us in tears.

**May we who share these gifts, share Christ with
one another and with all our kin.**

*(Adapted from Lent-Easter 2017 Year A Gathering, pages
86-87).*

COMMUNION ANTHEM: *"You Are My Body"*

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 602): *"Blest be the tie that binds"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

We remember those who have shown
us the way and invited us to live as part
of the family of God each new day.

**We depart to share the truth we have
received and to live with the hope that
we cherish as part of the family of God.**

*[written by Bill Steadman. Lent-Easter 2017 Year A
Gathering, page 47. Used with permission].*

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

Prayer Resources:

*Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1,
Advent through Pentecost; Worship for All Seasons II,
Selections from Gathering – Year A; The United Church of
Canada Lent-Easter 2017 Year A Gathering Resources for
Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

Next Week's (Sunday, May 21, 2017) Readings:

Acts 17:22-31;

Psalm 66:8-20;

1 Peter 3:13-22;

John 14:15-21.

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

Wednesday, May 17th

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, May 18th

@ 10:30am – Bible Study

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

Let the Church Music Serenade You into Summer

May 28th – Simple Gifts – arr. J. Coates

June 4th – I Thank My God for You – J. Martin

June 11th – Who Will Teach the Children? – A. Page

Scott Woods and his Band- Twin Fiddle express

Saturday, May 20th @ 7pm, CE Centre

Adult \$25 / Child \$10

-10-

Tickets@ George Home Hardware, Backstage Music, Church Office

Order by Visa or MasterCard – Scott Woods Band Office –
1.855.726.8896

Kids! Youth! Are you interested....

in going to Camp Tapawingo. Your UCW would be happy to help you with registration fees. Just drop us a note to let us know you are interested and put it in the UCW mailbox. The sooner you register the better.

Camp is where you make Forever Friends!

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed from May 23rd until June 8th for holidays and will reopen on Tuesday, June 13th.

Summer Newsletter

The Summer newsletter will be coming out soon. All people wishing to contribute to the newsletter are asked to get their submissions in by 9am on Tuesday, June 13th. Submissions can be dropped off at the church office or emailed to

melfortuc@sasktel.net.

FundScrip for May & June

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, June 22nd.

Volunteer Lists

With the help of Gale Strachan and Sharon Heavin we've put together an updated volunteer list. It is posted on the bulletin board in the CE entrance. If you are one of our volunteers please stop and take a look at it. Make sure your name is included in the right spot(s) and that your phone number is correct. Note any corrections on the sheet. If you'd like to volunteer on a committee just add yourself to the list. We will distribute the list to all of the committees in late June.

Stewardship Second

Amid the struggle of our lives, God has loved us abundantly. We give thanks!