



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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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: Bert Hilliar

Scripture Readers: Gina McAvoy, Cheryl Sproule

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**May 21, 2017**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter – Year A**

*Rural Life (Rogation, Earth) Sunday*

### 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:**

In the warm, bright sun of spring, we watch excitedly the green shoots rising, the red buds bursting.

We see and feel life awaken in our presence.

**We thank you, O God, for the breath  
of new life in Jesus.**

Gentle, cleansing rains wash away the dusty grays of winter and draw forth the sap and nectars of new growth.

We see and taste nature made new and colorful.

**We thank you, O God, for the breath  
of new life in Jesus.**

In the soft breezes of approaching summer, birds are

chirping, rabbits are hopping, and children are laughing at play. We see and hear life reborn.

**We thank you, O God, for the breath  
of new life in Jesus.**

Fragrant lilies and hyacinths bloom in the company of all manner of flowering trees and shrubs, beside pools of recharged waters. We see and smell the reflection of renewal.

**We thank you, O God, for the breath  
of new life in Jesus.**

Praise to you, O God, for all of creation and for the generosity of your Spirit we see within it.

**Give us courage and strength to preserve  
your creation for all generations.**

**Give us love and compassion to embrace  
each other and all of creation. Help us to  
nurture a world of love and peace  
everlasting. Amen.**

*[Written by James Traquair. Lent-Easter 2017 Year A  
Gathering, pages 45-47. Used with permission].*

**HYMN (MV 41):** *"O beautiful Gaia"*

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

**Holy One, we come before you in awe,  
for you have promised never to leave us.**

**Ever. It is an awesome thing!**

**Even when we feel most lost and alone,  
still you are with us: your spirit is there,  
as comforter, advocate, friend.**

**Help us to know, and celebrate your  
presence with us always. Amen.**

**HYMN (VU 264):** *"Immortal, invisible, God only wise"*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

Forgiving One, unseen yet known,  
we hear the world speak in power and in greed  
and we hear you speak in love and grace.  
May our lives be lived in the echo of your voice.

When we are persuaded by the want that leads us to hurt, the hankering that leads to greed, the yearning that leads to selfishness,

**forgive us for following the wrong way;  
may we turn again and follow you.**

When we are persuaded by the spin that becomes truth, the belief that becomes dogma, the fear that becomes intolerance,

**forgive us for following the wrong way;  
may we turn again and follow you.**

Forgiving One, seeing and forgiving, knowing and loving, we turn from following the wrong way and face you with our confession. Hear us. Forgive us. **Amen.**

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God is like a parent who says, "I don't like what you did, but I still love you." And then God gives us the opportunity to make changes.

**Thank you, God!**

**Thank you for a fresh start!**

*[Written by Cindy Randall. Lent-Easter 2017 Year A Gathering, page 47. Used with permission].*

### **PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 115):**

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

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

### **ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (VU 570):** *"Jesus' hands were kind hands"*

### **PRAYER OF JESUS:**

### **MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**PSALM 66:8-20 (VU pp.784-785,**

**Parts Two and Three):**

*God preserved us.*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Acts 17:22-31:**

*Paul points the Athenians to the “Unknown god.”*

**1 Peter 3:13-22:**

*Do not repay evil for evil.*

**John 14:15-21:**

*The Advocate, the Spirit, will be with you.*

**SERMON:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING:**

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

We give you that which belongs to you, O God:

This soil...

**We give this soil that you might make it rich again, and see again that it is very good.**

This water...

**We give this water that you might make it clean again, and see again that it is very good.**

This air...

**We give this air that you might make it pure again, and see again that it is very good.**

These gifts of money, symbols of our time, our talents, our labour...

**We give these gifts that you might use them and us as instruments of healing, and see again that all humanity is very good. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Divine Creator, Jesus promised the disciples – and through them, us – that your Spirit of Truth would be with us always. We come before you in prayer to lift up our concerns for all who need assurance of your presence in their lives. We think of our world, too often a place of violence and war, of bloodshed and anger. We call upon your Spirit to come into our world,

**and name that Spirit, “Peace.”**

There is so much injustice and inequality in our world, to the point where we can find ourselves overwhelmed and unsure of where to turn. We call upon your Spirit to come into our world,

**and we name that Spirit, “Justice.”**

We think of those whose lives are filled with the daily struggle to find enough food to eat. We think of those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, and all those who face demons such as pain, addiction, loneliness. We call upon your Spirit to come into our world,

**and we name that Spirit, “Hope.”**

We pray for those who are grieving, who are experiencing loss in all manner of ways, and those whose lives are fraught with anxiety. We call upon your Spirit to come into our world,

**and we name that Spirit, “Comforter.”**

We pray for ourselves, and for all your people who hear the call to discipleship, but may be unsure of how to live that out, or too timid to step forward. Yet we know you are always with us. We call upon your Spirit to come into our world,

**and we name that Spirit, “Friend.”**

**Amen.**

### **SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU 686):** *“God of grace and glory”*

#### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Let us go forth, renewed in  
our spirits by God’s Spirit  
and affirmed in our gifts  
by God’s grace, to share  
all we have with all of creation.

Go in the name and peace  
of Christ.

**Amen.**

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

## **Prayer Resources:**

*Seasons of the Spirit – Seasons FUSION Lent-Easter 2017; Worship for All Seasons II Selections from Gathering – Year A and the United Church of Canada Lent-Easter 2017 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

### **Next Week's (Sunday, May 28, 2017) Readings:**

*Acts 1:6-14;  
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35;  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11;  
John 17:1-11.*

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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**

**Church Office Closed - Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

@ 2 pm – Naomi Unit

**Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

@ 10:30 – Finance Committee Meeting

@ 7 pm – Women Alive

**Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

@ 7 pm – Choir

**Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**

@ 10:30am – Bible Study

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

@ 7 pm – Church Board Meeting

**Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

@ 10 am – Pastoral Care Team Meeting

**Let the Church Music Serenade You into Summer**

May 28<sup>th</sup> – Simple Gifts – arr. J. Coates

June 4<sup>th</sup> – I Thank My God for You – J. Martin

June 11<sup>th</sup> – Who Will Teach the Children? – A. Page

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> until June 8<sup>th</sup> for holidays and will reopen on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

**FundScrip for May & June**

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, June 22nd.

***Stewardship Second***

*Stewardship is a respectful journey with fellow travelers, knowing we will never arrive at the way the world "should" be but that we all have much to contribute on the trek.*