



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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Website: [www.melfortunitedchurch.com](http://www.melfortunitedchurch.com)

Ministers: All of us

Worship Leader: Rachelle Heavin

Music:

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter:

Scripture Readers:

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**May 24, 2020**  
**Sixth Sunday after Easter, 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:**

Here we gather, each from our individual lives.

We carry into this place the joys and the worries of our week,  
the weight of our personal experience,  
the anxieties of all that the future may hold.

**Here we gather, in prayer and preparation.**

**Here we knit ourselves into a community,**

**here we hold one another in compassion,**

**here we remember that the work you have called us to do,  
we do not do it alone.**

Come let us worship.

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

Holy God, listen to your people praying for your presence with us,  
as we gather in worship and praise,

**Holy God, listen to the people praying.**

For your encouragement as we go out into the world, seeking to do  
your will,

**Holy God, listen to the people praying.**

For the unity that we find, as the many members of one Body,

**Holy God, listen to the people praying.**

For the guidance of your Holy Spirit in opening our hearts to hear  
one another in love,

**Holy God, listen to your people praying. Amen.**

## **PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

God of glory, to you we give all praise, for your grace has surrounded  
us from before the beginning, and by your grace we know that we  
are yours. Yet all too often, we think that we alone belong to you, that  
we alone are your beloved, that we alone know the way to you. Too  
often, we exclude from grace those who seem different from us,  
those who use different words to speak of you or live their  
discipleship differently from us.

**Forgive us, when we want Jesus' prayer to be just  
for us.**

**Forgive us, when we look for you in the heavens and refuse  
to see you on Earth.**

**Forgive us, when we dim your glory by putting limits on  
your love.**

**Forgive us, when we do not glorify you by loving you in all  
that you have created.**

God of all, help us to feel the tenderness of your love, your hope for  
intimacy with us in our daily lives. Help us to live in the holy love of  
you, poured out in grace and mercy upon one another and all of  
creation. **Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Even when we cannot see, or touch,  
or hear the presence of the divine among us,  
we know that we belong to God.

Just as God sent Jesus to walk with us long before  
the world was ready, so God forgives us even before we ask.

By race, we are loved; by grace, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *"Olde Irish Blessing"*

performed by Alexis Heavin, accompaniment  
by Tracey Smetaniuk.

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE3GU9yTKzk>

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

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**RESPONSORIAL READING:**

**Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (VU p.  
787)**

*God makes a home for the poor.*

**APOSTLES READING:**

**Acts 1:6-14**

*The ascension of Jesus.*

**EPISTLE READING:**

**1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

*Cast your cares on God. Be alert.*

**GOSPEL READING:**

**John 17:1-11**

*Jesus prays that his disciples "all  
may be one."*

### **MESSAGE:**

Madison & Aiden: *"For Praying Out Loud"*

from Seasons of the Spirit, performed by Alexis Heavin and  
Will Heavin. Musical Reflection performed by Mavis  
Peters.

YouTube Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBpbE\\_IXSuE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBpbE_IXSuE)

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Holy God, glorify us, that we may glorify you!

It is not for our own sake, Holy One, that we have chosen to follow in  
the way of Jesus the Christ. For we know the story; we know that the  
way of extravagant love is not a way to human status or worldly  
power.

**Holy God, glorify us, that we may glorify you!**

Following Jesus can grant to freedom from the destructiveness of the world: freedom from consumerism, from the constant pressure to produce, from the gaze that tells us we are never enough no matter how much we have or how often we work out. Following Jesus means living into the promise that we are enough, as we are, for God to love us and call us to be bearers of the kin-dom.

**Holy God, glorify us, that we may glorify you!**

Yet we also acknowledge that following Jesus can make us very uncomfortable, as our freedom levels the playing field, and puts us all on equal footing. We are enough, as we are, and so are those who have long been marginalized, despised, rejected.

**Holy God, glorify us, that we may glorify you!**

In your mercy, God of love, help us to show forth your love to all of this world. Help us to seek out and lift up your presence and the inbreaking of your kin-dom wherever we might find it in this world. Remind us that our work is not to our own glory, but always to yours, you who created and loved us all with grace and abundance. Help us to look to you, not in clouds and light and heavenly splendour, but among the parched lands in need of rain; among those who are most hurt by the brokenness of this world.

God of grace, help us to move the prayers of our hearts into our hands and feet.

**Holy God, glorify us, that we may glorify you! Amen.**

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

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

**COMMISSIONING & BLESSING:**

Go out from this place full of the tenderness of Jesus' care for each one of us. Go out into the world, carrying with you the abundance of God's grace and love, and letting it overflow as blessings to the world. Go; for Christ is out in the world, still calling us to life and love.

May the grace of Christ Jesus, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you, today and always. **Alleluia! Amen.**

**PRAYER RESOURCES:**

*\*Seasons of the Spirit – Seasons FUSION Lent-Easter 2020; The United Church of Canada Lent-Easter 2020 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

**NEXT WEEK'S (May 31, 2020) READINGS:**

*Job 12:7-10;  
Matthew 6:25–33.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

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**THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH:**

**Pastoral Care - Contact Information**

Should you need emergency pastoral care please call Ron Nielsen @ 306-921-7794 or 306-752-4119.

**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 have changed your address or phone number, please advise the Church Office so that we can keep your information current.

Thank you!

**FundScrip Deadline for May**

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. The gift cards will be ready for pickup on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Stewardship Seconds*

*Stewards care passionately, humbly, and graciously about God's vision for the world.*