



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: Rick Peters

Scripture Readers: Stacey Kleiboer, Gloria Stushnoff

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 28, 2017

Seventh Sunday of 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:

Let the righteous be joyful and exult before God!

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name.

**The Spirit of God rests upon us;
the glory of Christ has been revealed to us!**

God has granted us homes in which to dwell.

God draws us into a spiritual community.

**God's goodness provides for the needy;
God's power equips us to witness.**

Come now, that we may worship together.

Lift up songs to One who rides on the clouds.

**We come to the source of life for new strength.
We seek unity within and among us.**

HYMN (VU 395): *"Come in, come in and sit down"*

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

**We have come together, O God, longing
for a glimpse of heaven.**

**Out of the clamour and fiery ordeal of
the world, we bring our anxieties and
suffering to this place of meeting.**

**Here we find others who share our quest
for meaning and purpose.**

**Here we can reflect on your generosity,
and take time to pray.**

**Reveal yourself to us here, so we may
recognize your presence with us in
other times and places. Amen.**

HYMN (VU 402): *"We are one"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

Receive us, O God, a fearful and broken people.

**Receive us in all our false pride and shattered
humanity. Embrace us in our bewilderment
and anxiety. Save us from the wrong we do
and the evil we allow. Tame our rebellion,
strengthen our faith, and establish your reign
among us. Grant us courage to live more
fully as your people. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Before leaving this earth,
Jesus asked God to watch over us,
and prayed that we might be united.
It is God's desire – expressed
throughout scripture – always to keep
us close, and to love us despite our faults.
Know that, as you seek to follow God,
you are forgiven and transformed people.

Thanks be to Go! Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 115):

"Behold, behold I make all things new"

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"Simple Gifts"* – arr. J. Coates

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 145): *"Draw the circle wide"*

PRAYER OF JESUS:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

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

God makes a home for the poor.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Acts 1:6-14:

The Ascension of Jesus.

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

Cast your cares on God. Be alert.

John 17:1-11:

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

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**For all the gifts we have been given,
we give thanks: The gift of your love,
the gift of Jesus, the gift of life everlasting.
We acknowledge our mission to serve**

**and so we bring what we can that others
may know your love, too. We pray with
all our relations. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Creator of all things, Lover of all things: We come before you in awe of the great Creation you have made, and placed us within. We thank you that we are a part of it – that we are connected, through spirit and breath, with everything, animate and inanimate. Loving God, help us to be aware of our interconnectedness with all things; remind us that they are all our relations. Fulfill your glory through us

as we seek to do your will.

Guardian of all things, Lover of all things: We come before you in thanksgiving for Jesus, who brought you to us in new and transforming ways. We thank you for the loving care the risen Christ gives us even today; the arms outstretched on the cross reach far and wide to embrace all creation.

Fulfill your glory through us

as we seek to do your will.

Ruler of all things, Lover of all things: We come before you aware that you have given great power and authority to many of us. Even the smallest things we do have enormous effect on others and our world. Help us to use this authority wisely. And be with all those who have power and authority over others. Help them to make compassion and justice their creed. Remind them that we are all related – all of us.

Fulfill your glory through us

as we seek to do your will.

God of all things, Lover of all things: Jesus told us, “This is eternal life: to know God.” Yet too often we take this to mean that others must be just like us. We know there are others who know you in ways different from us; help us to learn from them, and them from us, how we can all celebrate, worship, and serve God – even with different languages, customs, beliefs, and practices. Fulfill your glory through us

as we seek to do your will.

Caregiver of all things, Lover of all things: We recognize that we are called to follow Jesus, and, like him, to reveal your name to

our hurting world. We live in a world that struggles and cries out for justice, and we ask for your Spirit to strengthen and empower us to bring that about. We live in a world that yearns for a sense of purpose, for an awareness that we are all part of something greater than ourselves – your world, with all its beauty and its quirks and its foibles. Fulfill your glory through us

as we seek to do your will.

Spirit of all things, Lover of all things: May we be one – your peoples, and all your creation. Help us to celebrate the beauty you have created, for when we do that we are far more inclined to share it, to nurture it, to care for it, that it may be present for many generations to come. Fulfill your glory through us

as we seek to do your will.

Amen.

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (MV 169): *“When hands reach out beyond divides”*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Jesus said: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Let us go, then, to be Christ’s witnesses in our communities, and beyond their borders, and into those places that are different from us, and to all the ends of Earth.

And let us do that in the awareness and the power that we are all connected with all Creation through the love of the one who created it all.

Let us all go out in peace. **Amen.**

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

Prayer Resources:

Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2, Liturgical Resources for Year A; Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Lent-Easter 2017; the United Church of Canada Lent-Easter 2017 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.

Next Week's (Sunday, June 4, 2017) Readings:

Acts 2:1-21;

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b;

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13;

John 7:37-39.

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

Church Office Closed - Tuesday May 30th to Thursday June 1st

Wednesday, May 31th

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, June 1st

@ 10:30am – Bible Study

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

Let the Church Music Serenade You into Summer

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

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

Church Office Closed

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

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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.

Stewardship Second

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