



# 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: Jean Senecal

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 31, 2020 Pentecost Sunday, Year A (Camping 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.*

#### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:**

*Some of today's service comes from the many resources Denise supplied me and some of the words are my own. Thanks to Kalen who also shared in the preparations.*

I'm so excited you joined in for Camping Sunday! Since we are doing this from a distance I will try to recreate some things about camp for you today. I hope you are able to open the link (<http://www.camptapawingo.net/>) from Camp Tapawingo for a little glimpse of camp life. It is filled with music, laughter, friendship and more. Due to Covid-19 camps have made the tough decision to remain closed to protect the health of many. Today we gather to listen, reflect on, and support our United Church camping ministries.

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

I know you are out there!

**And we do too!**

I can feel you splashing in the lake, so near!

**We can feel you flowing through the trees, right here!**

Shining in the campfire, twinkling in the stars!

**In our song, in our friendships, ever near, never far!**

Come, let us search together and discover!

**Let us worship together and uncover!**

## OPENING PRAYER:

### Prayer in Four Directions<sup>1</sup>

*Determine which direction east, south, west, and north are, and face these directions as they come up in prayer.*

**Each new day we give thanks to the circle of life.**

*(Face the east)* From the east, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

**We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!** *(Face the south)* From the south comes warmth, guidance, and the beginning and the end of life.

**We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!**

*(Face the west)* From the west comes the rains, purifying waters to sustain all living things.

**We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!**

*(Face the north)* From the north comes the cold and mighty winds, white snows giving us strength and endurance.

**We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!**

*(Look downwards)* From the earth we come and to the earth we shall return.

**We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!**

*(Look upwards)* From the heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of our breath, and messages from our winged creatures.

**We give thanks for your creation, oh God!**

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted with permission from a prayer gifted to Camp Big Canoe by the Very Reverend Stanley John McKay.

## **PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

Holy One, we confess that we struggle to understand one another.

**Open us to the presence of your SPIRIT.**

We confess that we have a hard time hearing experiences that don't match ours.

**Open us to the presence of your SPIRIT.**

We confess that we are confined by our words.

**Open us to the presence of your SPIRIT.**

We confess that we try to confine your spirit within our words, our experiences.

**Open us to the presence of your SPIRIT.**

Holy One, open us to the uncontainable, wild presence of your spirit. Teach us to see you, to hear you, to feel you beyond our human experiences and understanding.

**Open us to the presence of your SPIRIT.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

The Spirit moves alongside us, creating us anew in each breath. As many times as we fear, as many times as we try to keep God in the box of our human experience, the SPIRIT remains with us, breaking us open. As many times as we fall short of living God's dream for us, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S TIME:** Capture the Flag.

This is a popular game at camp. A flag is hidden in an area. Your goal is to find it and bring it back before you are tagged by the other team.

This week I hid one or more flags somewhere outside the church. I challenge all of you to take a walk or drive around the church to find the flags. No, I don't want you to take them, the fun is in the search. If you want, you can take a picture and share them with your friends. Be sure to let me know how many you found.

I have also included a little quiz at the end of the bulletin about

today's service. Please send your answers to

[jmsenecal@sasktel.net](mailto:jmsenecal@sasktel.net).

There is a prize for the winner. (*No age limit for participants.*)

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**HEBREW READING: JOB 12:7-10**

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

#### **SERMON:**

Camps have a strong history in Canada and in the United Church. We are in a place in history where we now have second-, third-, and even fourth-generation campers going to the same camp their family members went to. We are in a place where we are welcoming many new Canadians to our camps; where camps are welcoming, nurturing, caring, and compassionate places for all people to come and have fun, learn about our connections with each other, and grow.

At camp, we teach our staff that *camp changes lives*. This comes up in leadership training, in staff training before campers arrive, and in so many conversations leading up to camp. It isn't until camp staff go through a summer and reflect at the end that it really sinks in just how much of an impact camp has on our community.

Our community of United Church Camps across Canada serves thousands of children and families, many of whom would not be able to experience camp without the support of our broader church communities. Churches, UCWs, special interest groups, church leaders, and individuals like you provide support, financial and otherwise, without which these life-changing experiences may not occur. Thank you for your contributions, and for thinking of ways you can support our camps as we continue to gather strength and build strong communities.

Joe Richards is the Executive Director at Pearce Williams Camp, a United Church camp and retreat centre in Fingal, Ontario. He has summed up beautifully what it means to be a camp counsellor in his “Camp Counsellor’s Manifesto,” below.

## **Camp Counsellor’s Manifesto<sup>2</sup>**

*by Joe Richards*

I am a summer camp counsellor. I believe in camp. I believe in shorts, t-shirts and sandals. I believe in singing at the table.

I believe everyone should know five games to play on a bus.

I believe in early morning dip (even if I don’t always go).

I believe that if you play with children you will stay childlike.

I believe that camp makes a difference in every camper’s life, as well as my own.

Camp is a place that I can get away from the rush of everyday life and back to the basics. I come to camp for the campers, but also for myself.

Every camper is an individual and I need to treat them as such. One method does not work with all campers.

I will strive to find the balance that will help me to see each camper as an individual

and help me to give them each the summer of their lives.

I will remember my favorite counsellors and teachers. By remembering I draw on the positives of these people to make myself into a better counsellor.

I am the most important person at camp to my campers.

My campers will watch everything that I do and say this summer.

So I want to do what is right and say what is good.

Camper see, camper do.

I need help and I will not be afraid to ask for it.

The staff want to see me succeed and will help me to do so, but only if I ask. Camp is camp because of the people that are there.

I believe that every child should have an opportunity to attend camp at some point in their lives.

Camp is good, no camp is great—in fact, I believe camp is the best place to be.

I believe this is going to be the best summer yet.

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<sup>2</sup> With thanks to Joe, [www.yoyojoe.com/camp-counsellors-manifesto](http://www.yoyojoe.com/camp-counsellors-manifesto).

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

God love, we can learn a lot from the cooperation and fun of camp. In life, as at camp, learning and challenges become stepping stones to our growing maturity. Thank you for surrounding all of us with love, guidance and forgiveness.

### **A Shining**

*by Jim Taylor<sup>3</sup>*

Faces talk around a table knees warm around a campfire  
voices sing in a circle hands clasp in the darkness and in  
between, among,  
around them hovers a shining

Eyes cannot see it ears cannot hear it fingers cannot  
touch it but all feel it  
deep, deep within

The shining glows and pulses and sings high and clear  
and tastes sweeter than honey whenever two or three  
or four or more— humans or trees herring or  
chickadees— meet and merge in holy harmony

Though there is nothing there everyone knows something  
is there  
that can't be explained or explained away

I call it God  
What do you call it?

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<sup>3</sup> "A Shining" by Jim Taylor, as published in John McTavish, *Jesus and Elvis: Creative Resources for Schools and Churches* (Searcy, AR: Resource Publications, 2019).

Reprinted with permission from John McTavish.

## **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:**

As we go forth from this place, Let us move with the SPIRIT!  
Let us breathe in the SPIRIT! Let us sing forth the SPIRIT!  
Let us live by the SPIRIT!  
Go forth in the blessing of our God  
to love and to serve wherever the SPIRIT moves!  
**Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** <https://youtu.be/2k-nJpOM8b4>

- 1. Who is the office administrator for our church?**
- 2. What is the theme for today's service?**
- 3. What does camp change?**
- 4. Jim Taylor's poem says there is something that can't be explained. What did he call it?**
- 5. What is the name of the song in the YouTube video?**

### **PRAYER RESOURCES:**

*\*Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Lent, Easter 2020;  
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Resources for Worship Planners. © 2020 The United Church of  
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**NEXT WEEK'S (June 7, 2020) READINGS:**

*Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8;  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13;  
Matthew 28:16-20.*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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 June**

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. The gift cards  
will be ready for pickup on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Stewardship Seconds*

*Pentecost reminds us of the gift at the centre of our  
lives as we steward holy Energy!*