



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: Bernice McCosh

Scripture Readers: Jeanette Stevenson, Marion Heavin

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 7, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Easter – Year A

(Good Shepherd 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:

God, our Shepherd, invites us to this place.

God, invites us to rest in grassy meadows, and leads us beside restful waters.

God has set a table for us in the presence of our enemies.

God has given us so much, it is as if our cup overflows!

Come, let us gather in the house of our God.

HYMN (MV 161): *"I have called you by your name"*

OPENING PRAYER:

Your Easter gift surprises us, O Loving God.

When we felt that death had the last word, Christ is among us.

Your Easter gift delights us, O Loving God.

When we put limits on our achievements and our happiness, Christ is not bound by them.

Your Easter gift challenges us, O Loving God.

When we would keep our faith to ourselves, Christ encourages us to venture out unafraid.

Your Easter gift humbles us, O Loving God.

When we glory in our work for you, Christ shows us his hands and his side.

The risen Christ is your Easter gift, O Loving God.

We join with all the saints. We give thanks and we rejoice! Amen.

HYMN (VU 559): *"Come, O Fount of every blessing"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

We read of the early disciples gathering and doing things with glad and generous hearts. Yet that is not always the case with us. I invite you to hear these passages of scripture, and the reflections on them that challenge us on how we live.

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to shared meals, and to prayers.

And yet when we disagree with others' teachings we put them down, we think they are wrong; we do not want to join them in a meal, or pray with them. (pause)

A sense of awe came over everyone.

And yet we are too often skeptical, reluctant to see God's presence in our everyday lives. (pause)

The believers were united and shared things. They would sell property and possessions and distribute them to those who were in need.

But how can we tell who is really in need? So many people want to rip us off. They might say they are in need, but I'm not so sure. (pause)

They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone.

But sometimes I'm tired and I don't want to live in a way that models God's goodness. I only want to focus on me. (pause)

Forgive us, God, when we are more concerned with ourselves than with our wider community. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Hear these words from scripture: "Though you were like straying sheep, you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your lives." Friends, know that in the presence of our Shepherd and Saviour Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 64) verse 5:

"Because you came on Easter morning"

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"Disciples of Christ"* – Besig & Price

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 121): *"Hey now, Sing hallelujah"*

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

PSALM 23 (VU p.747): *sung*
God is my shepherd.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Acts 2:42-47:

The believers share everything in common.

1 Peter 2:19-25:

Christ's example in suffering.

John 10:1-10:

Jesus: the Good Shepherd and the gate.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 182): *“Grateful”*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Your voice, O God,
is calling us to action:
**to speak out for the needy,
to affirm the seekers,
to comfort the distressed,
to encourage the downhearted,
to challenge the complacent.**

These gifts enable your voice to be heard; bless them! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Shepherding God, in a dangerous world, let us hear your voice and come and go through your gate.

We pray for the whole church, that we may be devoted to your Word and the universal fellowship, being generous to all who are in need.

We pray for the earth, for green pastures and still waters, that we may restore them to the goodness and purity that they had at the time that you created them.

We pray for the people of the world, their nations, and leaders, that your wisdom and peace may govern all, so that no one will fear.

We pray for all those in need, for those in want, those who are ill and the dying, that we may be the banquet that you set before them as we anoint them, feed them, and comfort them in your name.

We pray for ourselves, our families, and those we love. May no one live in fear; may all dwell in your presence for ever.

Blessed are you, Great Shepherd, who, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, gives us goodness and mercy, leads us down right paths, and restores our souls.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 635): *“All the way my Saviour leads me”*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Go out in peace to follow Jesus,
our Shepherd.

Receive the shepherd's care,
and care for others.

Model the grace of God in our world
that others will know they want to be
a part of what we have as God's
people. **Amen.**

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

Prayer Resources:

**Seasons of the Spirit- SeasonsFUSION, Lent-Easter 2017;
Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1, Advent
through Pentecost; Prayers to Share Year A, Responsive Prayers
for Each Sunday of the church year; the United Church of Canada,
Lent-Easter 2017 Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used
with permission.*

Next Week's (May 14, 2017-Easter 5A) Readings:

Acts 7:55-60;

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16;

1 Peter 2:2-20;

John 14:1-14.

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 10th

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, May 11th

@ 10:30am – Bible Study

@ 12 pm – Ministerial Meeting

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

Friday, May 12th

@ 10 am – Pastoral Care Meeting

Scott Woods and his Band- Twin Fiddle express

Saturday, May 20th @ 7pm, CE Centre

Adult \$25 / Child \$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.

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.

Naomi Unit – Campbell Soup Labels

As you are aware the Naomi Unit collects Campbell soup labels for Campbell's Labels for Education Program. As of **January 1st, 2017** new points may be accumulated and deposited only from product labels with the **Labels for Education®** logo.



Financial Flash

Camp Tapawingo will be very pleased with our donation from Camping Sunday.

We collected \$1,205.55 and \$4.70 in Canadian Tire Money. Adding in the \$7.20 Canadian Tire Money from the container in the CE entrance brings our total donation to \$1,217.45. Thank you all for your generosity!

Stewardship Second

Stewardship is a spiritual practice. How do stewards of the gospel prepare the way for Jesus?