



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

Office: (306) 752-2288 Email: melfortuc@sasktel.net

Website: www.melfortunitedchurch.com

Worship Time: 10:30 AM

Ministers: All of us

Worship Leader: Mel Annand

Music: Tracey Smetaniuk

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Yvonne Stevenson

Scripture Reader: Megan McAvoy

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 15, 2020
Twenty-fourth after Pentecost, 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:

We lift our eyes to you, O God; we lift our spirits in worship.

We look to you, seeking guidance and comfort.

We look to you seeking healing and renewal.

We look to you, seeking mercy and grace;

for we have had our fill of struggles and stress.

We have had more than our fill of worrying and wondering.

To you, O God, we lift our eyes and spirits, with hope and confidence in your love.

Be known to us as we worship and help us find rest.

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

You have given us each many talents,
Gracious Creator,

and we give thanks to you for such generosity and kindness.

You have given us, as a community, many opportunities to
reflect your beauty, wisdom, and love,
and for this, we give thanks.

You have bestowed upon us opportunities to invest the gifts
you have given us – to reach out in faithful joy and to
share from our abundance.

And you have called us together in worship and invite us to
be accountable to you for our lives and our love.

Be with us as we gather and help us to boldly proclaim the
ways we have shared your love,
through the gifts you have given us.

Hear our songs, prayers, and silences as testimony of our
stewardship.

And bless us as we worship – increase our strength and
courage through this time, we pray. Amen.

HYMN (VU 509) *“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

All: You bestowed upon us many talents,
and we confess we have often squandered them.

Right side: You gave us lands and seas, mountains and plains;
and we confess we have polluted and allowed for their demise.

Left Side: You gave us diversity in ethnicity, culture, and race;
and we confess we have often used these to uphold and support
division.

Right Side: You gave us creatures and plants, flora and fauna
beyond imagining; and we confess we have consumed and
overtaken habitats, allowing whole species to disappear.

All: You gave us humanity in miraculous diversity.
We confess we have failed to invest in this beauty and
celebrate it, and have allowed prejudice and judgment to
create suffering for too many.

You entrusted us with so much, and yet we allowed our fears to overtake us and failed to bring new life in the abundance possible in your love.

All: Forgive us, Holy Wisdom, and teach us again how to trust in you, how to live in the hopeful knowledge that you will multiply our investments, and be with us all the ways. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

As we turn to God in confession,

God turns to us in investment.

God offers us abundant life.

Let us embrace it, celebrate it, multiply it, and rejoice.

For God's investment in us never ends. **Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 99) *"Stand, O Stand Firm"*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (VU 703) *"In the Bulb There Is A Flower"*

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING:

PSALM 123 (VU p. 847)

We lift our eyes to you, O God.

HEBREW READING:

JUDGES: 4:1-7

The judge Deborah speaks God's word to the general Barak.

EPISTLE READING:

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

The day of God will come as a thief in the night.

GOSPEL READING:

MATTHEW 25:14-30

The parable of the talents.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

(Please use the offering box at the front/back of the Sanctuary as you exit. Thank you!)

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 191) *“What Can I Do?”*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

Here is it – our treasure – returning to you what you have given to us. Bless and sanctify it, we pray, that it may multiply and increase in every way, through your love and promise. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:

You have given us song!

Help us to invest in this gift and sing with abandon!

You have given us dance!

Help us to invest in this gift and move our bodies with joyful exuberance.

You have given us a natural world to care for.

Help us to invest in this gift and plant seeds, protect habitat, decrease our carbon footprint, and relish in the delights of your harvest.

You have given us responsibilities.

Help us to invest in these gifts by recognizing them not as burdens, but as blessings and opportunities to show you our love and devotion.

You have given us relationships.

Help us to invest in these gifts and discover how they offer us new dimensions to our souls.

Help us to honour and cherish everyone.

You have given us community.

Help us invest in this gift and open the doors wide to a need any in need of our communion, of a safe harbour, and the nourishment of welcome.

You have given us your Holy Spirit.

Help us to invest in this gift and be a people of justice, peace, and renewal.

We thank you, Great God, for all the gifts of our lives.

May we invest them wisely and joyfully.

Amen.

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 701) *“What Does the Lord Require of You”*

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING:

Children of the Light, let us take our willingness to see, and to name, and to tend, and to care out into the world that is so often shadowed. And let us invest ourselves in helping to bring about God’s realm on Earth. Let us go in peace. **Amen.**

CHORAL BLESSING (MV 209) *“Go Make a Difference”*

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**Seasons of the Spirit – Seasons FUSION Pentecost 2, 2020; The United Church of Canada Pentecost 2020 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

NEXT WEEK’S (November 22, 2020) READINGS:

Psalm 100;

Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

Tuesday, November 17th

Church Office Closed

7 pm – Women Alive

Wednesday, November 18th

7 pm – Choir

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!

Sunday, December 6th - White Gift Sunday

Sunday, December 6th is White Gift Sunday.

The Youth Group will be collecting unwrapped
present donations and collecting pajamas.

Mittens, Mittens, Mittens!

The Naomi Unit is planning another mitten tree for Christmas
Giving this year. If you are an avid knitter, hand knit mittens would
be wonderful, but any size children's mittens would be gratefully
accepted. The tree will be set up in the foyer to display the mittens.
Close to Christmas these items will be donated to a worthy cause.

Winter Newsletter

Please submit your report/submission for the winter newsletter
by November 26th; either to the office or by email to
melfortuc@sasktel.net. Thank you.

FundScrip Deadline for November

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, November 26th. This will be the last order before Christmas. Your order will be available for pickup on Thursday, December 3rd.

Stewardship Seconds

*The gifts of this world will not last past our lifetimes,
but God's gifts to us—and our gifts to God—will last
through this life and beyond.*