



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

Lead Minister: Emmanuel Menyereye

Music: Grace Wilton

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Doug Lyon

Scripture Readers: Dorothy Busby, Sue Amundrud

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 17, 2019

Twenty-third after Pentecost Year C

[CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SERVICE]

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: *(If possible, led by 4 children)*

One: I am a child of God who comes from Mexico.

Two: I am a child of God who comes from Egypt.

Three: I am a child of God who comes from Israel.

Four: I am a child of God who comes from Palestine.

All: **We are all children of God, coming before our Maker to learn, lament, repent, and praise. Let us make sacred this time. Let us celebrate God.**

HYMN (VU 345) *"Come, children, join to sing"*

OPENING PRAYER: *(together)*

**O God, parent of all,
we come to your house to think about you,
your goodness and love.
May the music we sing today help us,
the beauty that surrounds us help us,
the reading and teaching of your word help
us to worship you. Amen.**

HYMN (VU 644) *"I was there to hear your borning cry"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

Today we celebrate the children in our lives and the child in each of us. Today we grieve for children we have lost and children yearned for, but never had. Today we pledge to advocate for children who are abused, oppressed, living in poverty. Today we covenant to learn from, lead with, serve, and worship alongside the children in our midst.

May God's joy be in our hearts, God's love surround our living, and God's presence strengthen us day and night. As we grow and learn, in times of joy and sorrow, in all our beginnings and endings, may God keep us and bless us always. Amen.

*[Written by Amy Crawford, 2006
Summer/Autumn Gathering, page 64].*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

In the story of Genesis, when God created humankind - they were created in God's image! And indeed, God blessed them so they might grow and flourish along with creation. As children of God, we are blessed again and again with the love of God, and we are welcomed into relationship with Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE (VU 340)

"Jesus, friend of little children" - all verses

CHOIR ANTHEM: *"Celebrate this Day Together"*
– Ciereau/Liebergen

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 157) *"I am a child of God"*

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FIRST READING: **MATTHEW 18:2-6:**
True greatness.

SECOND READING: **PROVERBS 31:8-9:**
Speak out.

THIRD READING: **LUKE 10:25-37:**
The Good Samaritan.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 541)

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

With the words, "and so we pray," you may respond,
"Thank you, God!"

O God, we have so much - and so we pray...

Thank you, God!

We have sun and sky and food and love - and so we pray...

Thank you, God!

We are able to give, and so we pray...

Thank you, God!

Make these gifts help the world, and so we pray...

Thank you, God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

With sung response:

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying,” VU 400

Spirit of God, blow through this room today bringing memories of all the gifts you have given us: the childhood delights, the middle-age joys, the later-year smiles, and the moments of encouragement and comfort along the way. In this world that thrives on telling us we can do it ourselves if we just get the right education or buy the right product, help us to remember our childlike nature—that our lives are a series of gifts from you, from our first breath to our relationships to our last walk with you. Open our eyes to see how we and our fellow creatures are miracles to stand in awe of. Breathe your life into us and make us great servants of peace.

Sung response:

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying,” VU 400

Holy Teacher, as we move into a week that includes home, work, and worldly happenings, may we be blessed to serve others and lift up the children. As we look out at the world of broken hearts, may we find Christ’s courage to serve those who have been hurt by violence, abuse, sexual assault, racism, poverty, war, and famine. Remind us that we are not alone. We are not required to solve every problem, but we are not exempt from doing what is ours to do. Breathe your life into us and make us great servants of justice.

Sung response:

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying,” VU 400

God of community, blow through this room today bringing healing and comfort to all who need you. May each one of us feel, in the stillness of our praying, your embrace around us. Today, we ask for healing for our friends in discomfort; we pray for (*list those in need of prayer in silence or aloud*). Today we pray for ourselves;

hear us in the silence as we lift our joys and sorrows to you (*time of silence for personal prayers*). Holy One, Breathe your life into us and make us great servants of your beloved creation.

Sung response:

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying," VU 400

Holy One, we lift these prayers to you, with one final prayer: that we might be part of your answer to us. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (MV 212) *"Sent out in Jesus' name"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Let us go into the world daring to let children lead,
partnering with friends and neighbours, as we seek
God's justice and peace.

May God, who loves us from our bawling cry, go with us.
May Jesus, who welcomes us into relationship, stay with us.
And may the Spirit's persistent call for peace be with us.
This day. This week. And always. **Amen.**

CHORAL BLESSING *"My peace" - G. Routledge*

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**As Children Worship by Jeanette E. Perkins; united-church.ca/worship-special-days/childrens-sunday
(2017 Children's Sunday: In God's Own Image;
Children's Sunday 2019: It's not Fair); 2009 Summer/Autumn
(Year B) Gathering, page 53 and Summer/Autumn 2006 Gathering
Resources for Worship Planners, page 64.
Used with permission.*

NEXT WEEK'S (NOVEMBER 24, 2019) READINGS:

*Jeremiah 23:1-6;
Luke 1:68-79;
Colossians 1:11-20;
Luke 23:33-43.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome:

Welcome to worship here today. Whether you are worshipping with us today for the first time or you have been here before or longer than you can remember, you are welcome to be here and to participate however you feel comfortable. Sometimes you may be invited to stand and you want to stay sitting, or you might feel comfortable standing but no one else is. Do what feels right and comfortable for you.

We each bring something of ourselves to worship, and it enhances the experience for each of us. Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is, God, through us, welcomes you to worship.

Please remember to sign our guest book at the entrance of the church, and stay back for a cup of coffee and conversation at the CE Centre immediately following the service.

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

Tuesday, November 19th
@ 7 pm – Women Alive

Wednesday, November 20th
@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, November 21st
@ 10:30 – Bible Study
@ 4:15 – Bell Choir

Rev. Emmanuel's Office Hours & Contact Information

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Office Number: 306.752.4312 Cell Number: 306.930.4093

For emergency pastoral care call 306.930.4093

Confirmation / Transfer or Applying for Membership

If you want your child to be confirmed or 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've changed your address or phone number please advise the Church Office so that we can keep your information current.

Thank you!

Galapagos Adventure – Anne McIntosh

You're all invited to attend Anne's presentation on her recent trip the Galapagos. It is on Tuesday, November 19th at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. It is being hosted by Women Alive.

Come and Go Tea – November 23rd, 2019

There is a Come and Go Tea on Saturday, November 23rd to celebrate Iris Kaminskas' 80th Birthday. It is from 2 – 4 pm in the CE Centre. All are welcome!

Music, Music, Music – Don't Miss a Sunday!!!

November 24th – “The Journey” – E. Harris
December 1st – “O Come to Us Emmanuel” – J. Martin
December 8th - “Touched by a Child” - J. Purifoy
December 15th – “Where is Christmas” – J. Ray
December 22nd – “Celebrate this Christmas Day” – acapella -
Ciereau/Liebergen

Renewal time for your subscription for the Broadview (Observer)

Stop by the office by December 12th to pay the \$25 annual subscription fee.

FundScrip

The next FundScrip order date will be Thursday, December 5th. The order will be available for pick up on Thursday, December 12th. This will be the last FundScrip order in time for Christmas.

Winter Newsletter

Please submit your report/submission for the winter newsletter by November 27th; either to the office or by email to melfortuc@sasktel.net. Thank you.

Christmas Tea & Bazaar

December 7th, 2019, Christian Education Centre, 2 – 4 pm
There is a box on the CE stage for your donations to the “New To You” Table. A volunteer sign-up sheet is on the easel in the CE foyer.

Stewardship Seconds

Gratitude and thanksgiving are fundamental to our life as Christian stewards.