



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: Jodi Allen
Music Director: Mavis Peters
Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk
Caretaker: Faye Greier
Today's Greeter: Robin Miazga
Scripture Readers: Robin Miazga, Stacey Kleiboer

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 24, 2019
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Year C
[REIGN OF CHRIST 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.

MUSICAL PRELUDE: THE CARILLONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Based on Luke 1:68–79*

Bless the Holy One of Israel,

who comes to help and deliver the people.

God brings us from the power of those who despise love;

the Holy One ushers us into mercy.

The dawn of God's compassion breaks upon us;

it is light to those who sit in the shadows.

It is our guide on the path of peace.

HYMN (VU 375) *"Spirit, spirit of gentleness"*

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

God who reigns, we give you thanks this day for gathering us into your holy realm and inviting us into your promises. As we offer our gratitude for your faithfulness, for your compassion, and for your guidance, allow your reign to break upon us, illuminating our worship and opening our hearts. Amen.

HYMN (MV 28) *"God of the Bible"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

Loving God, we have heard so much talk from political leaders that it is hard to trust the voices of faith that promise a king who listens to you. Free us from the noise that makes us oblivious to the cries of an aching planet. Free us from the exhaustion that drains our confidence and leaves us weary. Free us from cynicism that blocks the possibilities of change and hope. Tender Shepherd of our hearts and souls, lead us today into the confidence of new life in you. Amen.

*[Written by Wendy MacLean, Pentecost. 2 2019
(Year C) Gathering, page 52].*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Upon the cross, Christ prayed for divine forgiveness for his enemies. That is the way of God's grace. No limits. No boundaries. Only mercy for all. Know that God's compassion has broken upon us this day and every day and will forever reign in our hearts.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 115)

"Behold, behold I make all things new"

CHOIR ANTHEM: *"The Journey"* – E. Harris

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 92) *"Like a rock"*

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING:

LUKE 1:68-79 (VU p. 900):

The song of Zechariah.

HEBREW READING:

JEREMIAH 23:1-6:

*God will raise up new shepherds
for Israel, God's flock.*

EPISTLE READING:

COLOSSIANS 1:11-20:

*In Christ all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell.*

GOSPEL READING:

LUKE 23:33-43:

*"Remember me when you come
into your kingdom"*

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

THE CARILLONS: *"Sarabande"* – G.F. Handel

OFFERTORY HYMN (VU 541)

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**Generous God, you are the Source of all
that we are and all that we have.**

**Accept the gifts we offer this day as
a sign of our trust in Christ's authority.
Use these gifts to usher in your reign that
the broken may know wholeness,
the war-torn may know peace,
and that all may know mercy. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Compassionate God, you bring us out of the destructive powers of this world and into the reign of Christ, the one in whom we find our source of being and the truth which holds us together. Christ showed that your truth is found in forgiveness. He prayed from the cross, "Abba, forgive them; they do not know what they have done." Our world delights in vengeance. Violence is abundant. We do not truly know mercy. O God, your reign is compassion.

Lord, usher in your reign.

The rulers, dictators, presidents, and powers in our world exercise their authority to profit themselves and the wealthy. Power is exploited, and oppression rises. The common good is ignored. This stands in stark contrast to the ways of Christ, because, O God, your reign is love.

Lord, usher in your reign.

We make enemies more easily than we make friends. Countries fight one another. Neighbours build fences between themselves. Even the earth, which you have given to us as our home, we destroy. Destruction, hatred, and malice do not hold us together. Christ alone does through the reconciling work of self-sacrifice because Christ desires peace. O God, your reign is peace.

Lord, usher in your reign.

Steadfast God, in Christ you give us hope. Be with those in need: those who are sick or desperate, those who mourn or are lonely, and those who are poor and have no hope. Today we offer our prayers especially for.... [*name them aloud or in silence*]. Be with them and with those who have care of them. May they know your constant presence.

Lord, usher in your reign.

We ask this in the name of Christ, firstborn of all creation, who comes in peace to reign with you and the Spirit, one God most holy.
Amen

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 635) *"All the way my saviour leads me"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Go out into the world in peace,
declaring Christ the king and ruler of all creation.

Go out into the world with courage, supporting
the ways he gives light to those who sit
in darkness and guides our feet in the way of peace.

And now may the holy triune God,
the visible and invisible, guide your feet,
strengthen your hands, and fortify your heart
this day and evermore.

In the name of the Creator, Sustainer,
and Redeemer. **Amen.**

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

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**Seasons of the Spirit - Seasons FUSION Season
of Creation. Pentecost 2 2019; Feasting on the Word,
Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2, Trinity Sunday
Through Reign of Christ Worship Companion;
The United Church of Canada Pentecost. 2 2019 Year C
Gathering Resources for Worship Planners.
Used with permission.*

NEXT WEEK'S (DECEMBER 1, 2019 - ADVENT 1A) READINGS:

*Isaiah 2:1-5;
Psalm 122;
Romans 13:11-14;
Matthew 24:36-44.*

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

Monday, November 25th

@ 10 am – Naomi Unit (***note change of time***)

Tuesday, November 26th

@ 10:30 – Finance Meeting

Wednesday, November 27th

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, November 28th

@ 10:30 – Bible Study

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

@ 7 pm – Church Board Meeting

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!

December Noon Lunch

The noon lunch in December is on Sunday, December 8th.
The M&P Committee is in charge of it!

Fall Supper Proceeds

We made \$5,187.56 after all the expenses were paid on the fall supper. Thank you to everyone that made this such a success!

Scott Woods Show Proceeds

We made \$2,265.00 on the Scott Woods Christmas Show on November 16th. Thank you to all of you who helped make this another successful show!

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

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.

Hey knitters out there!

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 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 signup sheet is on the easel in the CE foyer.

Stewardship Seconds

This is the last Sunday of the church's year. It is kind of like New Year's Eve. Stewardship is an act of celebration, like a party among friends.