



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: Meghan McAvoy

Music: Jodi Allen Corbett

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Marion Heavin

Scripture Reader: Dorothy Busby

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent 1, Year B

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:

Based on Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine.

God of hosts, stir up your might!

Reshape us, O God; let your face shine.

We bring all that we have and all that we are to this space and time.

Our tears, our laughter, our hope, our anxieties.

We bring it all to you this day.

Reclaim us, O God; let your face shine.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may remember you and worship you this day.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

“Advent” means something’s coming. Or *someone*. When Christians talk about Advent, they are talking about Jesus coming. Advent is the time before Christmas, the time of waiting for Jesus to be born.

Jesus was already born, of course (2000 years ago); but every year we remember his birth and we think about his life and about our lives.

During Advent time, we light candles (one new one every week) to help us with our remembering.

The candlelight helps us feel calm and quiet so that we can focus on our thoughts and feelings.

Today we light Candle #1. It is the candle of Hope. (*Candle #1 is lit*). Let’s each think of something that we hope for and tell that hope to each other...

PRAYER: God, thank you for Advent time. Thank you for Jesus’ coming. And thank you for hope in our hearts. Amen.

(The first Advent candle is lit).

Sung Response (VU 7) “Hope Is a Star”

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

On this first Sunday of Advent, we focus on hope. At its basic level, to hope is to want something to happen or be true. To hope is to recognize that things are not as we wish they were. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, while in prison, said: “The celebration of Advent is possible only to those troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.”

Many of our scriptures for today speak of pain and hurt and tears...but they also speak of hope in God.

So, as we begin our journey through Advent, let us ponder:

In what ways is our world poor and imperfect?

What are you looking forward to?

How are you or those you love troubled in soul?

HYMN (VU 1) *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

The prophet Isaiah speaks to people in pain, to people who feel far from God. We too, live in a hurting world and can only move forward in worship and our lives when we acknowledge that hurt. We call out to God and say what is sometimes hard to say.

O God, how we wish that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

We feel as if we are fading like a leaf,

that our wrongs, like the wind, take us away.

There are many days when it feels as if you have hidden your face from us,

that we have all become unclean, and that the good we do does not matter.

But today you remind us that you are our God.

We are the clay, and you are our potter.

We are all the work of your hand.

Forgive us, O God. Reshape us, reclaim us.

Help us to remember you. Help us to remember that we are all your people. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Based on 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Long ago, these words were given to a group of people who were divided, who had forgotten who they were and to whom they belonged. These words were given as a reminder that despite our best efforts, God does not leave us. Hear these words and remember that we are children of God:

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by God you were called into the fellowship of Jesus the Christ.

Know that you are loved and be at peace.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 64) *“Because you came” -
Verses 1*

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“Amazing Grace”* - arr. Hal Leonard
– duet Mavis Peters and Tracey Smetaniuk

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (VU 289) *“It Only Takes a Spark”*

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING: **PSALM 80** (VU p. 794 Part One)
*Shine upon us, shepherd of
Israel.*

HEBREW READING: **ISAIAH 64:1-9**
*Tear open the heavens and come
down.*

EPISTLE READING: **1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9**
*In every way, you have been
enriched in Christ.*

GOSPEL READING: **MARK 13:24-37**
*You will see the Son of Man
coming in the clouds.*

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)*

**God of restoration and remembrance,
we have brought our pain and our hopes, our hurts and
our tears.**

**But the words of Paul remind us that these things we have
handed to you do not mean that we lack gifts as we wait
in hope.**

**You strengthen us in so many ways, and we thank you for
receiving all that we are.**

**We ask that you take our gifts and mould them, craft them,
shape them into those things that bring your hope to all
the world. Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:

Tears

The chaos of this world propels you forward. You have to keep moving. You can't stop for fear that if you did, if you were still long enough, if you were silent enough, you might actually cry out with no way to stop: cry out for help; cry out in anger; cry out for God to tear open the heavens. You fear that the weight of a thousand moments would crush you, no ten thousand moments, when you looked away, when you turned a blind eye to the cries of Creation, the tears of those cries culminating in a tidal wave that crashes down upon you, pinning your feet to the ground, paralyzed by the revelation of your own inaction. You look around and see the stained cheeks of a stranger on the street, looking and listening, as you are, to those same cries. And in that moment the weight becomes a little less, you're able to wiggle your toes, move your fingers, becoming the hands and feet of the God of Creation. Because you are not alone, not the only one carrying the burden of Creation's cry. And what seemed so crushing, so enormous of a task, becomes something doable, something possible. You are

capable of seeing and hearing Creation's cry and responding, not with fear, but with hope: hope that your actions do matter; hope that creation is not doomed; hope that God does use you; hope in the one who is to come.

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SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 2) *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING:

Peace be with you.

Righteousness be in you.

Comfort be among you.

Faithfulness be around you.

Go out into the world reminded of God's steadfastness revealing God's glory redefining this season of waiting into preparation for the dawn of God's holy light.

CHORAL BLESSING *"When You Go from This Place"*

– P Mayberry & D. Kai

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Advent • Christmas • Epiphany 2020–2021; The United Church of Canada Advent • Christmas • Epiphany 2020-2021, Year B, Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

NEXT WEEK'S (December 6, 2020 – Advent 2) READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85;

2 Peter 3:8-15a;

Mark 1:1-8.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

Tuesday, December 1st

@ 7pm – Women Alive

Wednesday, December 2nd

@ 4:40 – Worship Committee Meeting

@ 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

The Youth Group will be collecting unwrapped
present donations and collecting pajamas. White gifts and pjs can
be dropped off on Hadwen's front step until Dec 6th (426 Park Ave).
Sunday school will also be doing pick up of gifts and pjs on Dec 6th.
Please call/text/email Karen at 3069218284 or
hadwen.karen@gmail.com to arrange pick up.

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. Please put your mittens in a zip lock bag. Instead of a
tree a mitten bucket will be set up in the foyer. Close to Christmas
these items will be donated to a worthy cause.

Offering Envelopes

Due to Covid we are not putting envelope packages for 2021
out in the foyer. If you are out of envelopes, please stop
by the office and pick some up.

UCW Annual Report & Annual Congregational Report

If you have a submission/report for either of the 2019 Annual Reports please email or drop it off at the church office by Thursday, December 31st.

Renewal time for your subscription for the Broadview

Stop by the office by December 17th to pay the \$25 annual subscription fee.

Virtual Christmas Candlelight Service

Fedusiak Funeral Chapel & Crematorium Ltd.

Their annual Candlelight Service *is online only* on

Tuesday, December 8th, 2020 at 7 pm.

www.fedusiakfuneralchapel.com

Stewardship Seconds

*Let us remember the gifts we have received from God,
and in our turn become God's giving hands in this
world.*