



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: Judy and Don Meier

Music: Jodie Allen Corbett

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Bea White

Scripture Reader: Yvonne Stevenson

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 8, 2020

Twenty-third after Pentecost, Year A

[Remembrance Sunday and Food Bank 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:

Adapted from Psalm 78:1-7

Give ear, O people, to God's teachings.

For in parable and story God's wisdom is revealed.

Come, let us remember the stories of our ancestors in faith.

Let us share them with our children, and celebrate the goodness that has come from them.

God has established decrees with our grandparents and all generations:

and God has asked us to teach and continue them.

Come, people of God, let us raise our hope in God, and remember our blessings;

let us never forget God's glorious works in our lives.

Come, let us worship!

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

Holy Leader, we are presented once again with many choices. Today we have chosen to worship together in thanksgiving and praise.

We have found the freedom and joy of being able to gather in peace; we have found the time and resources to be able to enjoy this precious opportunity; and we have followed the calling of our faith to come together in supplication, intercession, and gratitude.

Be with us as we worship, and help us to choose you over and over. Help us to recommit ourselves to the blessings and challenges of our devotion to you and your love. Be made known to us, and help us to feel you near, we pray. Amen.

HYMN (VU 675) *"Will Your Anchor Hold"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

Abiding God, there have been times when we have chosen the gods of our contexts, over full devotion to you. We have worshipped at the altars of progress, efficiency, competition, and acquisition.

We have claimed to be your people while Behaving in ways that do not bear this out.

We have allowed the obsessions of the "world" and the scarcity mentality of our cultures to permeate our spirits and cause us to wander.

We imagine we are ready to be in your presence, but in truth are often asleep to the true preparedness of constant vigilance in your grace.

Forgive our shallow ways,

and wake us up to what it means to be
ready to follow whole-heartedly.
Jostle us into alert commitment.

Teach us to embrace the responsibilities that come with
helping to bring about your realm on Earth.
And help us to stay awake and prepared, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

The great good news is that though we may sleep and fall short, God is always awake to our needs, and provides over-flowingly. Though we may wander into the wildernesses of many temptations, God's journey is one of focused and complete compassion. We are loved and forgiven. God will always embrace us, whether we are ready for such grace or not. In this, let us be assured.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 99) “Stand, O Stand Firm”

CHOIR ANTHEM “The Journey” – Ed Harris

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/XakfSzGLpKg>

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 120) “My Soul Cries Out”

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

RESPONSORIAL READING:

PSALM 27 (VU p. 754)
A Prayer of Praise.

HEBREW READING:

DEUTERONOMY 31:6
Joshua becomes Moses' successor.

EPISTLE READING:

ROMANS 12:9-13

Life in God's Service.

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)*

**Today, more than most, we ask you to hear our prayer of dedication. We dedicate ourselves again to you. We are ready to be in your presence and to be your people. Receive our worship, and our promises, as evidence of our commitments and love.
And bless them all, we pray. Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:

Loving God, we are a people who have often taken our faith for granted. We have allowed ourselves to become distracted by the constant light show that is human life on this planet in this age. And yet, we gather desiring to be your people in truth and honesty. Although we are surrounded by the glittering masterworks of technology and entertainment, we sometimes struggle to find your light. We long for clarity of life in your love, but the temptations of our culture can consume us.

(Filling the lamp) Help us to be ready and to be renewed when we fall short. Fill us with your joy, humility, justice, grace, and mercy. Help us to be replenished by your forgiving love and teach us to renew others as we go. Renew your planet, we pray.

Teach us to walk gently upon it, as readiness in your reign.

Renew your communities, we pray.

Teach us to work and live in harmony and justice, as readiness in your reign Renew your children, we pray.

Teach us to find deep purpose and satisfaction in worshipping you, as readiness in your reign.

Renew your leaders, we pray.

Guide them to be led by compassion and wisdom, and help us to support them in their endeavours toward the common good, as readiness in your reign. Renew your presence among us. Help us to discern your light, even in the brightness of the lights of this world, as readiness in your reign. And receive us into holy communion with you – united in the glorious fruition of love imagined, designed, and embodied. We pray in the name of the embodied one, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 684) *“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Go now. Seek and worship God. Light and shine God’s love.

Prepare yourselves and remember your commitments.

Allow God to work in you and give thanks for God’s grace.

Go in peace.

CHORAL BLESSING (MV 213) *“Take Up His Song”*

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 15, 2020) READINGS:

Psalm 123;

Judges 4:1-7;

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

Wednesday, November 11th

Church Office Closed – Stat Holiday

@ 7 pm – Choir - TBA

Friday, November 13th

@ 10 am – Pastoral Care

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!

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. Your
order will be available for pickup on Thursday, December 3rd.

Stewardship Seconds

*Stewards see others as they see themselves. We are all
broken and in need. What can we do to help each other?*