



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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

Website: [www.melfortunitedchurch.com](http://www.melfortunitedchurch.com)

Worship Time: 10:30 AM

Ministers: All of us

Lead Minister: Ryan Heavin

Music: Jodie Allen

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Gloria Stushnoff

Scripture Reader: Bea White

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**October 25, 2020**

**Twenty-first 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 are people on a journey – a journey of faith and hope in God's love.

**Come, let us continue on this journey, keeping our sights on the promises of God's grace.**

The invitation has been sent to each of us – no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey – we are all invited to join in following.

**We are invited to follow the Christ wherever we are led; to follow into service, into contemplation, into worship, and into communion with God, God's people, and God's created world. Come, let us journey on.**

Come, people of God, let us recognize ourselves as one family of God, as we journey together toward peace and justice.

**God unites us as one people, and journeys with us all the way. Let us worship.**

**OPENING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**We have visions, Great Creator.**

**We hold images and dreams in our spirits that we long to see manifest, but for now, sustain us for the journey.**

**Be known to us as we worship, and help us to cast our visions into the realm of possibility. Be known to us and guide us ever closer to the fulfillment of all healing and wholeness in this world.**

**Be known to us, and help us to see that every step is balm itself – every effort is part of your glory – every intention to love and share compassion is your realm on Earth embodied. Be known to us as we worship, and help us to see what is true now, as well as to hold the vision for what is possible in your grace. Amen.**

**HYMN (VU 296)** *“This is God’s Wondrous World”*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:** *(in unison)*

**Just a little further... Just a little more...**

**Just a little longer... Just a little closer.**

**As we journey in faith, we have often made the mistake of believing that the destination is the goal, rather than notice that the journey itself holds blessings often unseen and unknown.**

**This has meant we have missed some of the beauty, grace, wonder, and peace that have been ours along the way.**

**Forgive us, and help us to see the treasure that is in our midst as we journey together toward your realm on earth. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Look around and take it in!

Though we journey together toward new life, and always will,

God's realm is with us now.

Though we seek better days; though we long for greater healing;  
though we are called to challenge the status quo that  
still embodies injustice in so many ways,  
let us allow that vision to fill us right now – to be enough –  
and to be God's gift of peace and renewal today.

**PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 182) *"Grateful"***

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *To be announced!*

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US**

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**HYMN (VU 602) *"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"***

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**RESPONSORIAL READING:**

**PSALM 90** (VU p. 806) *sung*  
*O God, our help in ages past.*

**EPISTLE READING:**

**1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8**  
*We care for you like a nurse  
tenderly cares for her own  
children.*

**GOSPEL READING:**

**MATTHEW 22:34-46**  
*Love God; love your neighbour  
as yourself.*

**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)*

**We dedicate the journey to you today.**

**In thanksgiving for all the beauty and potential we  
can see from this vantage point as your people,  
we give our worship and our resources.**

**Bless and transform them, we pray,  
into the fulfillment of steps along “the way.”**

**We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:**

Loving God,

thank you that you are with us always.

We have been on many journeys of life and faith in our lives –  
journeys of family and career, of friendship and imagination,  
of personal fulfillment and community building.

And we live, always, with the hope of someday arriving into  
the light of fulfillment.

But we thank you, today, that as people of faith,  
our commitment is to the journey itself.

We recognize that in many ways, our dreams will never be  
fully actualized.

And yet, we know that to let go of the possibilities of peace  
on Earth with true justice and equity is to let go of God’s  
heartbeat in our lives.

We thank you for the prophets of our world who have held  
up the visions and shown us the potential –  
who have led us to the mountaintop from which we can all  
see the glory of your grace made known on Earth.

Guide us as we continue to strive to get closer to its fruition.

On this journey with a hurting planet, guide our steps and  
help us to be healers.

On this journey for racial justice, guide our steps to recognize  
one another as siblings and your family.

On this journey for economic equality, guide our steps toward the common good and enough for all.

On this journey with immigrants and sojourners everywhere,

guide our steps to notice that even we are sojourners, and our welcome is your welcome.

On this journey to be your people on Earth, guide our steps and teach us to love more fully, until we can all affirm that the journey itself is our home, and you are with us all the way.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (MV 12)** *“Come Touch Our Hearts”*

### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Let us continue the journey!

Let us go from this place with the knowledge of God’s accompaniment in our hearts.

Let us love God, our neighbours, and ourselves, and find the peace that comes with confidence in God’s grace. Go in peace.

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

### **PRAYER RESOURCES:**

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

### **NEXT WEEK’S (November 1, 2020) READINGS:**

*Psalm 34;*

*Revelation 7:9-17;*

*1 John 3:1-3;*

*Matthew 5:1-12.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

October 26<sup>th</sup>

@ 2 pm – Naomi Unit

October 28<sup>th</sup>

@ 7pm – Choir

October 29<sup>th</sup>

FundScrip Deadline

### 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!

### Looking for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers on a couple of committees: men and  
women for the Property committee and someone for M&P.  
Call Don Neher (306.921.4130) or the church office (306.752.2288)  
if you can help us out!

### FundScrip Deadline for October

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Your order  
will be available for pickup on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Financial Flashes

#### Update on Bake-less Pie Sale

Donations continue to come in for the Bake-less pie sale. It has  
now raised \$580. Thank you all once again.

**Noon Lunch -October 18<sup>th</sup>**

The Soup, bun, and cookie (and tomatoes) noon lunch raised \$324.00. There are a couple of small bills to pay out of this.

Thank you, Iris, Elaine, Jeanette, Grace, Don, and Bryan who donated supplies. Also, thanks to Elaine, Jeanette and Iris who helped prepare and package the meal for takeout and to Peggy for collecting the money.

***Stewardship Seconds***

*When we are gone, what legacy will we leave? Will it be one of generous giving from God's abundance, or one of hoarding and fear?*