



## 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: Rev. Charles McKenzie  
Music: Jodie Allen  
Music Director: Mavis Peters  
Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk  
Caretaker: Faye Greier  
Today's Greeter: Imogene Schick  
Scripture Reader: Gina McAvoy

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**October 4, 2020**  
**Eighteenth after Pentecost, Year A**  
*[Creation Time 4 &  
World Communion 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:**

The sun rises without fail  
bringing a new day to Earth  
and we rise to embrace this time of worship.  
Flowers, trees, grasses, and plants  
flourish and give praise with unfolding leaves,  
waving blades, and fragrant offerings.  
May we join them and praise the Creator with our being.

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

We gather as those who wonder and wander;  
we participate and pull back;  
we are faithful at times and frail at others.

**May life-giving ways  
be opened for us and within us.**

Some know what it is to struggle,  
to be broken but not crushed,  
to despair yet be held by unseen love.

**May life-giving ways  
be opened for us and within us.**

As a river carries life within its flowing currents,  
may we encounter, this day, the spirit of the One  
in whom is life and love for all.

**May life-giving ways  
be opened for us and within us.**

## **HYMN (VU 651) *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”***

### **PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

Your unconditional love, the love we have seen in Jesus Christ, tests us, O God.

**It tests us when suffering is least deserved and least expected. It tests us when the question is posed, “Why that person?” or “Why me?”**

Your unconditional, unselfish love is tested, O God, when trouble comes to a life that has been worthy or selfless.

**Your unselfish love is tested, O God, when from our family or faith community comes a cry for help.**

Your unselfish love is tested, O God, when we are the ones in control, the ones with the power, the ones who can take advantage.

In our moments of testing, O God;

**lift our eyes from ourselves and from our faith community, to the cross. Through the endurance of Jesus, through the cruel tragedy, through the saving grace, show us what can be achieved.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Hear now these life-giving words:  
receive, welcome, reconcile, enfold;  
restore, conserve, beautify, care;  
attend, share, compassion, love;  
forgiven, forgiven, forgiven, forgiven.  
May these words take root within us  
and become the living reality  
among and through us.

## **PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 81)**

*“Love Us Into fullness” – all verses*

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *“You Raise Me Up”* – R. Lovland/  
B. Graham - Keely Hadwen – violin solo

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US**

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (VU 642)** *“Be Thou My Vision”*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**RESPONSORIAL READING:**

**PSALM 19** (VU pp, 740 - 741)  
*The heavens declare God’s glory.*

**HEBREW READING:**

**EXODUS 20:1-4,7-9,12-20**  
*The Ten Commandments.*

**EPISTLE READING:**

**PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14**  
*Paul’s testimony-his gains were loss.*

**GOSPEL READING:**

**MATTHEW 21:33-46**

*The parable of the landowner and the tenants.*

**SERMON:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING INVITATION:**

As Paul reminds us that status, identity, or our dedication or attention to the rules will not secure our future within the arena of God's activity. It is so easy to trip up on the details. God's realm embraces the spirit rather than the letter of the Law and gives life rather than condemnation. In this confidence, let us offer the gifts of our lives for the sake of the world.

**OFFERING:**

*(Please use the offering box at the front/back of the Sanctuary as you exit. Thank you!)*

**HYMN (MV 191) *"What Can I Do?"***

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

Stir within us, spirit of the living God,  
that our lives may carry the Spirit of your law.

**May our finest offerings flow through these  
gifts into the world you love. Amen.**

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:**

Gracious God, we gather together at this time, more than a little apprehensive.

The harvest is being completed. The long cool spring, the wind, the summer storms have all affected the fall harvest. We are grateful for the harvest, yet being human, we think about what might have been. Be patient with us.

The severe weather in many parts of the world remind us that much as we want to be, we are not in charge. Forgive us God for our lack of humility.

We pray for those who are suffering with medical issues. May they find comfort.

As we go through this time of COVID-19 we ask for a lot of patience. So, we wash our hands more frequently, practice social distancing, and wear a face mask. We are putting into action, the great commandment to love your neighbour as yourself.

Keep reminding us dear God to live our lives as if we are already living in your kingdom.

May we share the blessings we have received to all those living around us. Amen.

## **SENDING FORTH**

### **HYMN (MV 169)**

*“When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides”*

### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Go with ways of wisdom for the Holy One:  
faithfulness, loyalty, reverence, stillness, respect.

Go with ways of wisdom for community:  
mutuality, honour, generosity, truthfulness, contentment.

Go in the wisdom of Christ that enables all creation to flourish in the ways of love: forgiving, healing, restoring, creating, life.

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

### **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. Seasons of the Spirit - Seasons Fusion Seasons of Creation, Pentecost 2 2017; Prayers to Share Year A; the United Church of Canada, Pentecost 2 2017 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

**NEXT WEEK'S (October 11, 2020) READINGS:**

*Deuteronomy 8:7-18;*

*Psalm 65;*

*2 Corinthians 9:6-15;*

*Luke 17:11-19.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH**

Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

Church Office Closed

@ 7 pm – Women Alive

Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

@ 4:40 pm – Worship Committee Meeting

Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

@ 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!

**Choir Rehearsals**

Choir rehearsals are starting October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Fall/Thanksgiving Decorations Needed**

The decorating committee is decorating the church for Thanksgiving. If you have decorations, garden produce or canning that they could use, please have them here at the church by

Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

### **Looking for Volunteers**

We are looking for volunteers on a couple of committees: for help on the committee to reopen for rental (short term volunteer), 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!

### **Bake-less Pie Sale**

Women Alive will not be hosting the Thanksgiving Church Pie Sale this fall. To replace the fundraiser there will be a BAKE-LESS PIE SALE. Donations will be accepted at the Church Office and at our Sunday Services up to Thanksgiving Sunday and added to your local offering. Thank you!

### **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>.

### *Stewardship Seconds*

*Everything comes from God and belongs to God; we give, not in tribute to God's power, but in gratitude for what we have been given.*