



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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Website: www.melfortunitedchurch.com

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: Glenn George

Scripture Readers: Lorne Anderson, Imogene Schick

ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 8, 2017

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Year A

[Thanksgiving 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:

God stretches out the heavens and shapes the earth.

Come and give thanks!

God raises up the mountains and pours water into the seas.

Come and give thanks!

God calls forth plants from the soil and forms animals in infinite variety.

Come and give thanks!

God breathes upon us and fills us with life.

Come lift your voices in praise!

God gives our lives meaning through laughter and tears.

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Come lift your voices in praise!

God touches our hearts through family and friends.

Come lift your voices in praise!

God loves us and blesses us with everything good.

Come and worship!

God loves us and overwhelms us with never-ending generosity.

Come and worship!

God loves us and surrounds us with love in abundance!

Come and worship!

HYMN (VU 245):

"Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet"

OPENING PRAYER: (in unison)

Great is our God, and worthy of praise!

**God's goodness knows no limit; God's faithfulness toward us
never ends!**

God, your majesty and glory surround us here.

**We've come together to celebrate your goodness, and to offer
songs of worship and praise.**

**We've come to rejoice in your mighty acts, and to retell the
story of your goodness throughout history and in our own
lives.**

**May your Spirit move among us as we worship together;
guiding and inspiring our thoughts and actions.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

HYMN (VU 516): *"Come, you thankful people, come"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

We fill our lives with the fear of scarcity, assuming there is not enough money, time, patience or love. We turn away when a stranger asks for nourishment, claiming there isn't enough even for ourselves.

Forgive us when we doubt your abundance and ignore the possibilities in what we have been given.

We often sit with arms crossed and fists clenched, crying out that you have turned away and left us empty handed.

Forgive us when we reject your abundance and neglect the possibilities in what we have been given.

We easily give thanks for the good things in life, turning away from those which lead us to deeper community or second-guessing blessings as too good to be true.

Open our eyes to the wonders that surround us. Help us surrender to the loving embrace that enfolds us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Take comfort: we, and the whole world with us, are always embraced in Christ's love. In Christ, there is always enough.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 166):

"Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ"

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"All Things Bright & Beautiful" – J. Rutter

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 104): *"Know that God is good"*

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE:

Generous God, for the abundance of your blessings to us, day by day and year by year,

we give you our thanks.

For the simple pleasures of life: for garden harvests, coffee conversation, and familiar surroundings, for health and strength to appreciate the wonder of life, for needs met and desires fulfilled,

we give you our thanks.

For food to nourish body and spirit, for homes which supply shelter, which nurture order and beauty, and offer hospitality,

we give you our thanks.

With gifts of money which reach farther than we can manage ourselves, with deeds done in service of neighbor and stranger, with family and friends distant and nearby,
we worship you, God, with grateful hearts and joyful spirit.
Alleluia. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

PSALM 65 (VU p.782):

God provides, the valleys sing.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Corinthians 9:6-15:

God loves a cheerful giver.

Luke 17:11-19:

Ten healed, one returns to offer thanks.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 187): *"We give our thanks"*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (in unison)

**With all that we have,
with all that we are,
we come to you,
God Most Holy -
knowing that all of it is blessed
by your love! Amen.**

*[Written by Richard Bott. Pentecost. 2 2017 Year A
Gathering, page 44. Used with permission].*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

(inspired by Ojibwa sacred teachings

www.fourdirectionsteachings.com).

Holy One, send us wisdom from the east.

Remind us always to give thanks for the gift of our lives with every sunrise. We remember and pray for the newborns and young children in our community and all who help to birth new life.

Holy One, send us wisdom from the south.

Remind us always to give thanks for the gift of each other with every warm wind.

We remember and pray for all who are finding their way, searching for identity and meaning in life.

Holy One, send us wisdom from the west.

Remind us always to give thanks for the sacred gift of creation with every falling leaf.

We remember and pray for all whose work has come to an end and all who harvest, gather, and nurture us.

Holy One, send us wisdom from the north.

Remind us always to give thanks for strength and understanding with every cool breeze.

We remember and pray for those who are in need or are seeking rest from their burdens of trials, illness, and loss. All whom this Thanksgiving Week finds with nothing to be thankful for.

We gather these prayers together with the prayer that Jesus taught his friends, saying,

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (MV 185): *"Every day is a day of thanksgiving"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Let us go now, with thanksgiving ringing
in our hearts, with thanksgiving rising
to our lips, with thanksgiving flowing
from us to the world.

Go in peace and may the blessings
of God abound in your lives.

CHORAL BLESSING (MV 220):

"Hope shines as the solitary star"

Prayer Resources:

*Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Season of Creation
Pentecost 2 2017; <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/thanksgivingresource-fall-2014.pdf>; the
United Church of Canada, Pentecost. 2 2017 Year A Gathering
Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.

Next Week's (October 15th World Food Sunday) Readings:

*Exodus 16:2-15;
Matthew 14:13-21.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***We welcome you all to worship, especially our
visitors or guests. We are glad that you have
chosen to worship with us today. Please remember
to sign our guestbook at the entrance of the church.***

***Please stay back for a cup of coffee and
conversation at the CE Centre immediately
following the service.***

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

Wednesday, October 11th

@ 7:00 pm – Choir

Thursday, October 12th

@ 10:30 am – Bible Study

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

Friday, October 13th

@ 10:00 am – Pastoral Care

Home-based Business Fall Trade Show (CE Centre)

Friday, October 13th– 4-8 pm

Saturday, October 14th– 9 am – 4pm

FundScrip Deadline for October

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, October 26th.

The cards will be available for pick up on Thursday, November 2nd.

November Date to Note:

Sunday, November 5th – Fall Supper

Scott Woods Old Time Christmas

Friday, November 17th – 7 pm

Tickets: \$25 Adult, \$10 Child (age 6-12)

Tickets are available at Home Hardware, Backstage Music/ Church
or call Gwendolyn @ 306.752.1923

Order by phone with Visa or MC at Scott Wood's Office @
1.885.726.8896

Financial Flash

Noon Luncheons

The September noon lunch profit was \$434.30 after expenses and
October's was \$430.00 less some expenses still to be paid. Thank
you to both the Worship Committee and Church Board for the
lovely lunches.

Fall Garage Sale

We made \$4,347.16 on the garage sale thus far. A huge thank you
goes out to Garry and Faye and a host of volunteers for another
successful sale.

Stewardship Seconds

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