



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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Website: [www.melfortunitedchurch.com](http://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: Kim Eskowich

Scripture Readers: Gloria Stushnoff, Albert Hilliar

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 10, 2017

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A

Season of Creation Time 2: Land Sunday

*[Holy Communion Service]*

### 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:**

You formed the first human body from the dust of the earth;

**today we gather as the body of Christ.**

You breathed the breath of life into us;

**as we breathe, we feel your spirit filling us.**

You welcomed us into your garden, which offered us fruit and vegetables to eat, and asked us to take care of it.

**We have work to do. May we plant seeds of righteousness and cultivate new life this day.**

**HYMN (MV 27):** *"Creator God you gave us life"*

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

**Gracious God, even as we look to the heavens for  
your light, we plant our feet firmly on the ground.**

**We know your love comes through warm sunlight, refreshing  
rain, and life emerging from the earth.**

**We see your creativity in the complexity of the onion,  
the beauty of the roses, and the fiery colours of fallen leaves, we  
taste your spirit in the sweetness of the strawberry, the  
herbaceous pungency of many minds,  
and the tannins of tea leaves.**

**Open us to the many ways in which your goodness and  
abundance emerge from the land. Amen.**

**HYMN (MV 37):** *"Each blade of grass"*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

Healing One, we come to you with heads bowed low.

We have failed to honour the boundaries you have set for us and all  
creation,

**God, we are sorry.**

We hear the earth cry out for the suffering of your people.

**God, we are hurting.**

We bear collective responsibility for contaminated land which has lost  
its fertility.

**God, we are hungry.**

We feel the dryness of parched earth which cannot bear food.

**God, we are thirsty.**

We seek your forgiveness and cry out for your wisdom.

**God, we are yearning.**

We pray for your empowerment and strength.

**God, we are seeking pathways to redeem and protect your  
beautiful creation.**

**We recommit ourselves to this work today.**

**Equip us to restore and renew your earth.**

**Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

As we acknowledge systemic injustices in the world, we create space  
in our spirits to act for change.

God will love and empower us as we embrace the needs of the world.

We can never, ever stray from God's love.

We open ourselves to God's ever-present spirit of grace and transformation as we seek God's hope and justice for all creatures and places.  
Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 95): *"How deep the peace"*

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

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 131): *"You, Creator God, have searched me"*

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

PSALM 139: (VU p.861):

*God, you know me through and through.*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16:**

*The consequences of disobeying God.*

**Romans 5:12-17:**

*Because of sin came death.*

**Matthew 12:38-40:**

*The Pharisees demand a sign from Jesus.*

SERMON:

## **OUR RESPONSE**

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 182): *"Grateful"*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

Giver of life, just as were our ancestors, we are  
but sojourners living on Earth for a while.

**May our gifts contribute to the flourishing of your creation and your larger vision for life and wholeness, for this generation and for those to come. Amen.**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMN (VU 460):** *“All who hunger”*

**COMMUNION PRAYER FOR SEASON OF CREATION:**

*(See insert)*

**COMMUNION ANTHEM (VU 471):** *“Eat this bread and never hunger”*

### **PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY:**

In a time of creation awareness we pause to give thanks for the wonders that surround us. We celebrate the blessings of Earth, nestled like a speck of dust in the great universe and at the same time home to life and beauty: from the amoeba to the antelope, from plankton to great whale, from newborn infant to wizened elder.

We lament the desecration of the sacred gifts: the impact we and our habits have on Earth and environment.

We mourn the species now extinct from over-hunting or loss of habitat. Move us to repent of our ways and live in harmony with Earth, our mother, and sun and moon, our sister and brother. We give thanks for the breath of life, and pray that we may use our breath, our voices, and our lives to stand in solidarity with those places and peoples under threat or siege due to climate change or any other violence, which we name at this time... Strengthen us to keep solidarity.

Finally, we turn back to our own circles and community, rejoicing at the love of friends, family, and congregation and, at the same time, calling to mind all who cannot be in this circle today and those who are in any particular need, whom we name at this time.... Keep us in communion with the sick, the dying, and the bereaved.

Bless, O Holy One, our prayers and our intentions that they may be added to the mending of the world. **Amen.**

[by Carl Wushke, the [united-church.ca/worship-liturgical-season/creation](http://united-church.ca/worship-liturgical-season/creation) –time 1].

## THE NEW CREED (VU P.918):

### SENDING FORTH

**HYMN (MV 41):** *“O beautiful Gaia”*

#### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

*Based on Isaiah 55:12-13 by Eugene H. Peterson:*

Go out in joy; letting yourselves be led into a whole  
and complete life.

Listen to the hills and mountains bursting with song.  
Notice the great trees of the forest joining in the procession, exuberant  
with applause.

No more thistles and thorns, but abundant nourishing  
fruits in our fields.

Great and lasting evidence of the wonders of God. **Amen.**

**CHORAL BLESSING:** *“My Peace”* – K. Routledge

#### Prayer Resources:

- *Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION – Season of Creation, Pentecost 2. 2017; Season of Creation Theme Service: Awe before Creation by Ralph Carl Wushke –united-church.ca/worship resources.*

#### Next Week’s (Sunday, September 17, 2017) Readings:

- *Joel 1:8-10, 17-20;*
- *Psalms 18:6-19;*
- *Romans 8:18-27;*
- *Matthew 3:13-4:2.*

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*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, September 13<sup>th</sup>**  
@ 7 pm – Choir

**Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**  
@ 4:15 – Bell Choir



## Back to Church Sunday

You are invited to our Back to Church Sunday  
& Noon Luncheon!

Sunday school  
classes will also  
be resuming. All  
children  
preschool to teen  
are invited to  
join us!

**Date: Sunday, September 17, 2017**

**Time: 10:30am**

**Melfort United Church**

220 Burrows Avenue West  
Melfort, Saskatchewan

**For more information...**

Phone: 306-752-2288  
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Website: [www.melfortunitedchurch.com](http://www.melfortunitedchurch.com)



***Should you happen to have extra tomatoes or cucumbers the  
Worship Committee would appreciate your donating them  
towards the noon lunch on the 17<sup>th</sup>!***

### **Stewardship Seconds**

*Jealousy and grumbling over what we don't have, and what we  
think we need, can never satisfy us. But as we share what we have  
with others, God will continue to give us what we need.*