



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: Cheryl Sproule

Scripture Readers: Marlene Stevenson, Grace Wilton

ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 17, 2017

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A

Creation 3: Wilderness/Outback Sunday

(Come back to church Sunday)

Sacrament of Baptism/Covenanting with Sunday School Children
and Teachers.

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:

From city and suburb,

together in worship;

From farm and forest,

together in worship;

From workplace, school, and home,

together in worship;

From family and friendship circle,

together in worship;

From our own place, from our chosen community,

together in worship.

We join with loved ones far from here; close at home; we join with all the saints

to pray, to praise, to receive the Word,

for we are,

together in worship.

HYMN (VU 374): *"Come and find the quite centre"*

OPENING PRAYER:

Gracious and Loving God, in this season of creation, we gather in worship,

aware of the beauty of the world still unfolding.

As we worship today, we would hear again your call

to live with respect in creation and to love and serve others.

Breathe your Holy Spirit into us as we encounter you in music, Bible readings, prayer and preaching, in the bread broken and in the wine poured.

May we experience anew your life-giving presence, that we might be renewed, restored, and equipped to be your people, following Jesus in the Way. Amen.

[written by Phil Hobbs, Pentecost .2, 2017 Year A Gathering, page 25].

HYMN (MV 1): *"Let us build a house"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

God of the wilderness, we seek your grace.

Too often we have been silent in the face of injustice, profiteering, and greed.

In our silence, we are accomplices to the destruction unfolding in your creation.

By our patterns of consumption, we have contributed to the breaking of ecosystems.

Through our investments, we seek the quick profit at the expense of the earth. Forgive us for our complicity.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

We can start now in seeking justice in all the ways we engage with earth. Though it may feel like a journey through the wilderness, just as God was present with the people of Israel in exile and with Jesus amid temptation, God, too, is with us. We are not alone. The Spirit is calling us to begin healing the world this day. **Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 115):

"Behold, behold I make all things new"

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"Part of the Family"* – J. Manley

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM *(see insert):*

SERVICE OF COVENANTING WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL
AND
INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS
(see insert)

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Romans 8:18-27:

The future glory.

Matthew 3:13-4:2:

The Baptism of Jesus.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 182) "Grateful"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**Holy One, your great love fills us,
spilling over into energized service.**

**Because you love us, filling our lives with grace, forgiveness,
joy, and laughter, we cannot help
caring for each other, for your beautiful creation,
and for others we don't even know. Our hearts
and lives are full and we must share the healing
you've given us, the welcome you've extended
to us, and the goods creation provides.**

**May the offerings of time, talent, skills, and money
we present today be symbolic of everything we
eagerly share. May they provide a blessing to us
and everyone whose lives they touch. Amen.**

*[written by Sheila McLeod, Pentecost .2. 2017 Year A Gathering,
page 27].*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God of all creation, we come to you in praise and thanksgiving for the beauty of your creation.

God, give us strength for the journey.

We come bearing burdens that weigh heavy on our hearts and make our bodies weary.

God, give us strength for the journey.

We ask you for your healing presence with all who are ill, those who mourn the loss of loved ones, and pray that your creation provide healing and sustenance.

God, give us strength for the journey.

We call for your wisdom to grace leaders of government, that they may prioritize care for the most vulnerable people and places in your world.

God, give us strength for the journey.

We reach for your courage as we seek new ways of living that nurture and honour creation.

God, give us strength for the journey.

We ask you to hear the prayers of our hearts, both those spoken aloud and those we hold close.

We give you thanks for the presence of your Spirit in all times and places.

God, give us strength for the journey. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 578): *"As a fire is meant for burning"*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

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 stately majestic birch, tamarack, etc. 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; Pentecost .2 2017 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

Next Week's (September 24th) Reading (s):

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17

Psalms 104:27-33

Revelation 22:1-5

Matthew 28:1-10

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

Tuesday, September 19th
@ 7 pm – Women Alive

Wednesday, September 20th
@ 7:00 pm – Choir

Thursday, September 21st
@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

FundScrip Deadline for September

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, September 21st
The cards will be available for pick up on Thursday, September 28th.

Eastern Star Fall Tea

CE Centre
September 23rd 2 – 4

Fall Garage Sale

Friday, September 29th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday September 30th – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Stewardship Seconds

As stewards, what we give is not as important as that we give.