



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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

Website: www.melfortunitedchurch.com

Worship Time: 10:30 AM

Ministers: All of us

Worship Leader: Rachelle Heavin

Music: Jodi Allen

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Jean Senecal

Scripture Reader: Grace Wilton

ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 20, 2020
Sixteenth after Pentecost, Year A
(Creation Time 2)

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:

Welcome. Today is Wilderness/Outback Sunday, a day we set aside to look beyond ourselves and remember the grace, wisdom, grandeur, and experience of the nonhuman world.

Today, let us learn together what the wilderness can teach us about ourselves.

Come, let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

Creator God, help us to open our minds and hearts
to the grandeur of our creation.

Help us to remember that even when we are in solitude
at the back of a cave or the foot of a mountain
or the bottom of a silent canyon,
we are not alone.

We are part of this wild,
grand, connected world.

We are part of the wilderness,
and the wilderness teaches us who we are. Amen.

HYMN (MV 144) *“Like A Healing Stream”* – Verses 1 & 4

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE: *(in unison)*

God, we remember our thirst for more.

Humans take up more and more space every year,
choking the homes of our plant and animal companions.
Help us to share the forests and the deserts, the oceans
and the prairies, with our earthly neighbours.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

We are your creatures, in a web of creation that is
nurtured by grace. We will never escape your love,
no matter how far we try to go.

We are loved, supported, and held in the family
of all living things.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“This is My Maker’s World”*

- Performed by Keely Hadwen

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD TO US

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

THE LORD’S PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

- RESPONSORIAL READING:** **PSALM 105:1-6, 37-45;** (VU p.p. 828- 829 Parts One and Four)
Make known what God has done.
- HEBREW READING:** **EXODUS 16:1-2-15**
Bread and quail to feed the people.
- EPISTLE READING:** **PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30**
For me, to live is Christ.
- GOSPEL READING:** **MATTHEW 20:1-16**
Daily wages for the labourers; what's fair?

HYMN (MV 127) *“I Saw the Rich Ones”*

MESSAGE: The Hadwen Family

HYMN (VU 647) *“Travel on, Travel On” – Verses 1 & 4*

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

(As you exit please use the offering box at the front/back of the Sanctuary. Thank you!)

HYMN (MV 191) *“What Can I Do?”*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**We are called to step out beyond our homes
and to see this world, to be adventurers who meditate
on the vastness of this universe. God, bless us and the
gifts we bring to your vibrant, diverse world of life.
We are all on a lifelong journey to the heart of your presence.
Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:

God of the wilderness, we pray that we can better aim to protect, live with, and defend the wilderness at the core of our beings and around the world.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the restoration of full and flourishing life across the world, in places that have seen destruction from humans and natural disasters.

Hear our prayer.

Help us to remember our connection with all elements of creation, and to embrace that connection with exuberance, joy, and our full energy.

Hear our prayer.

For what else do we pray today? (*Invite the people to offer individual prayers, either silently or aloud.*)

Amen.

HYMN (MV 29) *“How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place”*

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (MV 213) *“Take Up His Song”*

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

We are alive, we are whole,
and we are creatures of a vast and vibrant, wild earth.
Let us go forth, to serve, love, and nourish this world of wilderness!

PRAYER RESOURCES:

**Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Pentecost 1, 2020; The United Church of Canada Pentecost 2020 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

NEXT WEEK’S (September 27, 2020) READINGS:

*Exodus 17:1-17;
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Philippians 2:1-13;
Matthew 21:23-32.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH

Tuesday, September 22nd

@ 10:30 – Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 23rd

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, September 24th

@ 7 pm – Church Board Meeting

Friday, September 25th

@ 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!

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!

FundScrip for September

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, September 24th. Your order
will be available for pickup on Thursday, October 1st.

Stewardship Seconds

*Stewardship asks us to share God's love with all God's people,
not just a select few.*