



## 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: Grace Wilton

Scripture Readers: Bea White, Gale Strachan

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**September 24, 2017**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A**

*Creation 4: River 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:**

At the beginning of creation, the waters of chaos covered the earth;

**God brings order from chaos.**

God formed land and brought life to it, and created humans as helpers;

**God brings order from chaos.**

In the time of Noah, God flooded the earth, then committed to keep it;

**God brings order from chaos.**

Christ was immersed in the cold, rushing waters of baptism, an act of immersion into the fullness of the human experience.

**God brings order from chaos.**

We hold fast to a vision of a life-giving river bringing healing to the nations.

**May God draw us into the work of bringing order from chaos.**

**HYMN (MV 135):** *“Called by earth and sky”*

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

**Creator God, we long for you like a deer longs for flowing streams. We long for you like an anxious sheep longs for familiar pastures. We long for you like a hungry child longs for a piece of bread. Settle here among us, with open arms and ready smile, with comfort before you send us out on our adventures once again. Amen.**

*[Written by Maggie Watts-Hammond. Pentecost. 2 2017  
Year A, page 25. Used with permission].*

**HYMN (VU pp. 766-767):** *“As the deer pants for water”*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:** *(in unison)*

**Holy One, we come seeking forgiveness.**

**Too often, we are complicit with systems of profit and destruction – systems that have brought a climate crisis to your creation, and wreaked havoc on your most vulnerable people and places.**

**When we allow ourselves to take in the harm we have done to your creation, we feel many things. We name our feelings here in the comfort of our silence. *(pause)***

**We are sorry for what we have done. Please redeem us, renew us and charge us to bring hope, light, and care to your creation.**

**On this day, we commit anew to building a society and economy that prioritizes the needs of the most fragile parts of your creation. We promise to love you and your creation with our whole lives. Please give new life to Earth and us in your power. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God's love for us is new every morning.

God journeys with us in our pain and our grief.

God helps us process our suffering so that rather than inflicting it on others, we can rise and transform it into new ways of being in the world. God always, always loves us, no matter what. Know that we are drenched in God's love this day and every day. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 115):**

*"Behold, behold, I am making all things new"*

## **SPECIAL MUSIC: "Blessed Are They Who Trust" –**

Joseph M. Martin

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

## **ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

## **HYMN (VU 577): "I've got peace like a river"**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

## **MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

## **PSALM 104:24-35 (VU p. 827 –Part Two):**

*O God, how manifold are your works!*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

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

*God's covenant with Noah.*

**Revelations 22:1-5:**

*The river of the water of life.*

**Matthew 28:1-10:**

*The resurrection of Jesus.*

## **SERMON:**

## OUR RESPONSE

**OFFERING:**

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** *(in unison)*

Loving and gracious God,  
we give you these gifts in the hope  
that through them your kingdom might  
be glimpsed by those gathered here,  
and also by others.

Through these gifts, you have our  
commitment to live as your people.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Maker of water, within us and around us, in the waters of creation,  
in the chaos of the flood, in the river of baptism, in justice flowing  
like a stream, in all these things, you are present.

**You are the river of life.**

We come to you wet, weary, storm-battered, flooded, seeking  
renewal.

**You are the river of life.**

We bear witness to those who are depressed and struggling, those  
who feel hopeless, anxious, or afraid.

**You are the river of life.**

We name the great injustice of illnesses caused by unclean waters  
and environmental degradation.

**You are the river of life.**

We recognize our role in the warming of oceans and the  
magnification of storms.

**You are the river of life.**

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

**You are the river of life.**

We thirst for your life-giving waters to pour over us.

**You are the river of life.**

Quench our thirst and deepen our resolve to bear witness to the pain and the glory of the skies, the land, the seas and the rivers.  
**You are the river of life. Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU 710):** *“Shall we gather at the river”*

### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

We are not alone,  
**for we live in God’s world.**

As we go forth from this place and out of this holy time,  
**we are called to be the church in our daily lives.**

How does God call us into the world?

**By celebrating God’s presence in every moment of life,  
by living with respect in a fragile creation, by loving and  
serving others, by seeking justice and resisting evil, by  
proclaiming Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and  
our hope.**

Go, then, and live into the gift of faith.

**We go into challenge and into joy, companions with and  
in Jesus. Amen.**

*[Written by Gord Dunbar. Pentecost .2 2017 Year A Gathering,  
page 28. Used with permission].*

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

### **Prayer Resources:**

*\*Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION – Season of Creation,  
Pentecost 2 2017; The United Church of Canada Pentecost .2 2017  
Year Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with  
permission.*

### **Next week’s (October 1, 2017) Readings:**

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

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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

**Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Garage sale setup –signup sheet is in the CE foyer

**Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**  
@ 2:00 pm – Naomi Unit

**Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**  
@ 7:00 pm – Choir

**Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir  
@ 7:00 pm – Church Board Meeting

**Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 am – 5pm - Garage Sale

**Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Garage Sale

### Thanksgiving Pie Sale

Women Alive is hosting a Thanksgiving pie sale at the Melfort Mall on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, starting at 11am. All members of the congregation are encouraged to bake a large pie (no whipped cream) for the sale. Please have your pies at the Mall by 10:45am. Proceeds will go to the church.

**Bible Study**

Bible study will resume on Thursday, Oct 12th @ 10:30 am  
All are welcome!

**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 26<sup>th</sup>.  
The cards will be available for pick up on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**November Dates to Note:**

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – Fall Supper  
Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – Scott Woods Christmas Show

***Stewardship Seconds***

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