



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

---

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

Website: [www.melfortunitedchurch.com](http://www.melfortunitedchurch.com)

Worship Time: 10:30 AM

Ministers: All of us

Worship Leader: Jean Senecal

Music: Jodi Allen

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Peggy George

Scripture Readers: Judy Meier

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**September 27, 2020**  
**Seventeenth after Pentecost, Year A**  
*(Creation Time 3)*

### 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:**

People of God, let us gather by the river of life.

**We come to the river with our whole selves.**

In our sorrow,

**the river offers comfort.**

In our joy,

**the river rejoices with us.**

In our loneliness,

**the river provides companionship.**

In our uncertainty and pain,

**the river offers new life.**

Let us celebrate together the great gift of water God has given us.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Gracious God, be with us today,  
in our joy and sorrow, anticipation, and exhaustion.**

**Lead us to your life-giving water  
so that we may be renewed  
to carry out your transformative work in the world.**

**Amen.**

**HYMN (VU 651)** *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

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

**God, giver of life, we gather today acknowledging the harm  
we have done to your creation and one another.**

**We pollute the rivers and endanger the creatures  
within them, rather than honouring their sacredness.**

**We seek control and have power over the waters,  
rather than respecting their might.**

**We overlook the many enslaved and vulnerable lost  
in the waters, rather than acknowledging our role in this  
violence.**

**We focus on our own desires, rather than seeing how they  
impact the world around us.**

**We come yearning to be refreshed and replenished by the  
water of life, so that we might seek ways to honour you better  
and all of creation.**

**Forgive us for the injury we have caused.**

**Inspire us in seeking new ways to participate in and with your  
creation. Renew us with your life-giving water.**

**Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God invites us to come to the water in our entirety,  
with our flaws and questions, gifts and joys.

May this water remind us of God’s promise at our baptism –  
we are forgiven, loved children of God.

May this promise help us strive to be better stewards of God's love with one another and all of creation.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PRAYER RESPONSE (VU 131)**

*"If Our God Had Simply Saved Us" – Verses 1-3*

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

#### **MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

##### **RESPONSORIAL READING:**

**PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16** (VU p. 792  
Parts One and Two)

*God did marvellous things for our  
ancestors.*

##### **EPISTLE READING:**

**PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13**

*Let the same mind be in you that  
was in Jesus.*

##### **GOSPEL READING:**

**MATTHEW 21:23-32**

*By what authority does Jesus act  
and teach?*

#### **SERMON:**

The Same Mind as Jesus  
Philippians 2:1-13

When we go into a store, we often times will look for name brand products, that we know and we can trust. We'll recognize those products by their trademarks or logos. You see, companies spend millions of dollars on a trademark that will be recognized and associated with their product because they hope that when you see their logo, you'll think of quality and reliability.

In Philippians 2: 5-8 Paul tells us that there should be a mark on us as well...the mark of Jesus Christ. This trademark should be something that others will see and recognize because—and I quote..."....Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.

Though he was god, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing. He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.".....end quote.

Our trademark and our attitude should be the same as Christ's. Our trademark should reveal something about us and about Jesus. Our attitude should reveal to others what Jesus has done for us. It should reveal the comfort, fellowship, tenderness and compassion bringing joy to our everyday lives.

Paul is asking us, what difference has Jesus' trademark made in our life? Have we received encouragement because of Christ's presence in our lives? Have we been comforted by his love? Have we ever felt the presence and fellowship of the spirit? Do we understand the tenderness and compassion of that presence?

In 1784, Ben Franklin wrote a letter to a man named Benjamin Webb: "Dear sir; Your situation grieves me and I send you herewith a banknote for 10 Louis D'or (gold coins). I do not pretend to give such a sum; I only lend it to you. When you shall return to your country, you cannot fail of getting into some business that will in time enable you to pay all your debts. In that case, when you meet with another honest man in similar distress, you must pay me by lending the sum to him, enjoining him to discharge the debt by a like operation when he shall be able and shall meet with such another opportunity. I hope it may go through many hands before it meets with a knave that will stop its progress. This is a trick of mine for doing good with a little money. I am not rich enough to afford much in good works, and so am obliged to be cunning and make the most of a little. With best wishes for your future prosperity, I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant, B. Franklin."

Franklin was telling this man..." I've done this for you. Now, you go and do that same thing for others." And that is essentially what Jesus is saying to us; "I've done this for you...now you do something like that for someone else." It may also be the first recorded act of "paying it forward"!

That is our trademark as a Christian. Paul is telling us here in this Bible reading that each of us should look not only to our own interest, but also to the interest of other people. You will probably be wanting to ask me, what is the "attitude of Christ"? The attitude of

Christ is the willingness to do what we don't have to do because we want to be obedient to the God of our understanding.

You see, Jesus didn't consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing. Jesus took the nature of being a servant. He humbled himself and became obedient until death...even death on a cross!

There are a couple of basin stories referred to in the New Testament. One is in Matthew 27 when Christ stood before Pilate. Jesus had been brought before Pilate, the Governor of Judea. And Pilate had it within his power to convict or release Jesus. After hours of interrogation, Pilate arrived at the conclusion that Jesus had done nothing deserving of death. But the crowd demanded his blood. So, what did Pilate do?

He took a basin of water and washed his hands of the whole thing. He knew what he should have done but he took the easy way out. He passed on to others the responsibility which should have been his. That's the first basin story.

The other basin story is found in John 13. Jesus is in the upper room with his disciples eating what is now called the "Last Supper". After the meal, Jesus leaves the room, and comes back in with a towel around his waist and a basin of water in his hands. Then he starts to wash his disciples feet. Peter was offended, and he boldly told Jesus he would not allow him to touch his feet. But Jesus rebuked Peter. "...unless I wash you, you have no part with me." John 13:8 And then Jesus said: "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." John 13:15.

Jesus' basin story serves as a contrast to that of Pilate's. Whereas Pilate uses his to avoid his rightful responsibility, Jesus uses his basin story to take on responsibility which most would have said was not his at all.

I have found that many Christians get the false impression that somebody else will take care of it. In fact, there may never be someone else that will take care of it like God want us to. Many Christians get the false impression that their contribution is so small that it wouldn't make any difference to God.

Longfellow once wrote, "No man is as poor as to have nothing worth giving. Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare think."

The key thing to remember is that God eagerly desires for us to do good works. They are the mark of his ownership of us, and a

proclamation of the good things he has already done within us. Remember, even the smallest effort on our part can have the power to accomplish a great difference in this world, because we serve a big God who makes our weakness into strength. Our smallest efforts can be dramatic like this true story that happened during WWII:

An allied bombing raid had just returned to its base and told the miraculous story that they had been hit several times by German anti-aircraft gunners, but that none of the shells had exploded. Specialists gently removed the shells from the planes and took them away to a safe place to examine them. Their surprising discovery was that the shells contained no firing caps. In the place of the firing mechanism a note was found, written in Czech. Apparently written by one of the slave workers in a German munitions factory, the note said: "This is all we can do for now, wish we could do more."

To those workers, what they did was a small thing, but the result of that small action brought about huge results. We may feel the same way sometimes, that the efforts we make to help others are small, but we can't always see the huge results it may have on people. But it does. God uses us as his hands and feet on earth to do his will among others. Thanks be to God that small efforts can be just as effective as huge efforts in the lives of God's children. Amen.

*[Written by Rev. Dave Whalley, used with permission.]*

## **PRAYER:**

Let us pray:

**We are grateful, Creator, for sacred water that flows in our  
bodies and through the Earth.**

**Water is a powerful force that both creates and destroys,  
sustains and erodes,  
deposits and washes away.**

**Forgive us for all the ways that we have wasted, polluted,  
and ignored precious water....**

*[time for silence]*

**And help us restore good relations, remembering that  
Water is Life.**

**Amen**

**HYMN (MV 30)** *"It's A Song of Praise to the Maker"*

## OUR RESPONSE

### **OFFERING:**

*(Please use the offering box at the front/back of the Sanctuary as you exit. Thank you!)*

### **HYMN (MV 191) *“What Can I Do?”***

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

**God of transformation,  
we give thanks for your continued promise  
to care for and sustain all of creation.  
Help us to follow your example,  
raising our concern and care  
for one another and all of creation. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:**

God, you are our source of life, you offer us your love and healing so that we may help to repair our broken world.

**Hear our prayers for healing.**

**God, our comfort and healer, hear our prayers.**

**Renew our relationships with you and all your creation.**

**Disturb us from our complacency so that we can become  
agents of healing.**

Help us to live into your promise of new life as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER: *(in unison)***

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive**

**- us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power,**

**and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (MV 138)** *“My Love Colours Outside the Lines”*

### **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

You are a sacred part of God’s creation,  
God cares for you and is with you in times  
of abundance and scarcity.

Just as water flows endlessly from the river of life,  
go out and spread God’s love to all of creation.

**CHORAL BLESSING (MV 209)** *“Go, Make A Diff”rence”*

### **PRAYER RESOURCES:**

*\*Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Pentecost 2, 2020; The United Church of Canada Pentecost 2020 Year A Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

### **NEXT WEEK’S (October 4, 2020) READINGS:**

*Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20;*

*Psalms 19;*

*Philippians 3:4b-14;*

*Matthew 21:33-46.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

---

### **THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH**

Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

@ 2 pm – Naomi Unit

Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

Church Office Closed

### **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!

### **Bake-less Pie Sale**

Women Alive will not be hosting the Thanksgiving Church Pie Sale this fall. To replace the fundraiser there will be a BAKE-LESS PIE SALE. Monetary donations will be accepted at the Church Office and at our Sunday Services up to Thanksgiving Sunday and added to your local offering. Thank you!

### **FundScrip Deadline for October**

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Your order will be available for pickup on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fall/Thanksgiving Decorations Needed**

The decorating committee is decorating the church for Thanksgiving. If you have decorations, garden produce or canning that they could use, please have them here at the church by Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

Dear friends of St. Andrew's College,

- YouTube Promo: <https://youtu.be/IPbZfNdugw4>
- CanadaHelps Tickets: <https://bit.ly/34qpdIH>

It is less than a week from the college's first #NoGalaGala online fundraiser.

I invite you to join me and Tannis Schmidt, St. Andrew's Musician-in-Residence, on September 29<sup>th</sup> in a conversation with Tannis' original music. During this musical conversation and premiere, we will discuss leadership, hope, and sharing the Good News in a world seeking light. Whether you choose to watch on your own or organize an evening with family, friends and/or faith communities, it would be an honour to have you join us. The outtakes alone are worth watching!

Blessings,

Dea. Dr. Richard Manley-Tannis

### *Stewardship Seconds*

*Everyone is welcome at God's banquet table. Good stewards use their resources to help ensure that no one feels left out of God's abundance.*