



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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Ministers: All of us

Worship Leader: Ryan Heavin

Music: Grace Wilton

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Judy Meier

Scripture Readers: Don Neher, Stacey Kleiboer

ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 3, 2017

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year A

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:

Like mighty cedar trees,

we open our arms to you, O God.

Like swaying palm trees,

we feel your Spirit move among us.

Like apple trees heavy with fruit,

we offer our gifts to you and to the world. May they nourish and sustain.

HYMN (VU 509): *"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"*

OPENING PRAYER:

May we be deep-rooted in the soil of your word, Creator God.
Nourish us with scripture and Spirit that we may grow
stronger and taller.

May our outstretched arms provide shelter and bear fruit for all your
creatures, and your spirit blow through our branches.

Amen.

HYMN (MV 169): *"When Hands Reach Out Across
Divides"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

Gracious God, you set a boundary for the first humans, and still
today we defy you, consuming beyond what you have provided to
sustain ourselves and those who will come after us.

We know that as we attend to our own needs, we jeopardize the
needs of your people to come.

Deepen our sense of commitment to your grand trajectory, caring
for all your creation.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

As dry leaves fall from trees and decay, nurturing the soil and
promoting new life, God transforms our suffering and brokenness
into new life.

**We open ourselves to God's grace and transformation, as we
seek God's love and justice for all.**

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 95): *"How Deep the Peace"*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 157): *"I Am a Child of God"*

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

PSALM 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c (VU pp. 828-829 Parts One and Three):

Remembering Jacob and Moses.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses encounters the burning bush.

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine, overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28

Take up the cross and follow me.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 191) "What Can I Do?"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*in unison*)

Great and Holy One,

as we sojourn through your world,

**may we be ever mindful of leaving a light footprint, to give
generously, and to care for one another.**

**Multiply our gifts and our works,
that they may amplify your beauty and grace.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God of Creation, we gather in prayer for your world: both sun-dappled and drought-stricken; both lush and barren; both teeming with life and broken by disease and death.

We pray for your people: hopeful and yearning; fearful and exhausted; magnanimous and visionary; discouraged and downtrodden.

Guide our leaders, that they may humbly discern what it means to be in right relationship with power, and mindful of the impacts of their work on all living beings.

Empower our communities with courage to respond to injustice with compassion, to opportunity with vision, and to fear with love. Be present to all who suffer from illness and injury. May their spirits bear their burdens with the lightness of birdsong.

Forgive us, we pray, for the ways in which we have failed to live in harmony with our neighbours, our global community, the creatures that inhabit your world, and all living things.

Ground us in your love and justice. Grow us with living water and the light of your word. Strengthen us as we reach beyond ourselves to serve others and Earth.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 626): *"I Heard the Voice of Jesus"*

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 oak trees, great and lasting
evidence of the wonders of God.

Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING: *"My Peace"* – K. Routledge

Prayer Resources:

**Prayers to Share Year A, Responsive Prayers for Each Sunday of the Church Year; Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsFUSION Pentecost 1.2017; Worship for All Seasons II, Selections from Gathering – Year A, and the United Church of Canada Pentecost 1. 2017 Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

Next Week's (September 10th) Reading (s):

*Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149 (VU pp.872-873)
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20*

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 5th
@ 7 pm – Women Alive

Wednesday, September 6th
@ 4:40 pm – Worship Committee Meeting
@ 7:00 pm – Choir

Thursday, September 7th
@ 6:00 pm – UCW General Meeting – Potluck

Bell Choir

The first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 14th at 4:15 pm.

September Dates to Note:

Sunday, September 10th – Communion

Sunday, September 17th – Back to Church and Sunday School,
Noon Luncheon (Worship Committee)

Fall Garage Sale

Friday, September 29th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday September 30th – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

November Date to Note:

Friday, November 17th -

Scott Woods Christmas Show

Details to follow later

Stewardship Seconds

How often does fear prevent us from giving as much as we are able to give? Stewardship allows us to choose to be free from fear by using our gifts to free others from what enslaves them.