



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

June 25, 2017

Refugee Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reading: Mel Friesen

Pianist: Mary Anderson

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection:

*You know, those of us who leave our homes in the morning
and expect to find them there when we go back –
it's hard for us to understand
what the experience of a refugee
might be like.*

– Naomi Shihab Nye

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: In times of wandering

ALL: you guide us.

ONE: In times of drought

ALL: you feed us.

ONE: In times of weakness

ALL: you strengthen us.

ONE: In times of fearfulness

ALL: you comfort us.

ONE: For all the ways you care for us

ALL: we will forever give you thanks and praise.

Summer Worship Schedule

A Journey through Genesis

July 2	Canada Sunday (150 th)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
July 9	Isaac's Story	- Rev. Annette Taylor
July 16	Esau & Jacob	- Rev. Annette Taylor
July 23	Jacob's Ladder	- Rev. Annette Taylor
	- with communion	

Recent Events

Tuesday June 20th - Pearl Heuer Committal Service

Wednesday, June 21st - Rose Hammill Graveside Service

Saturday, June 24th - Glen Chase Funeral Service

United with Refugees



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Inspiring work with refugees is happening in United Churches across the country.

[We invite you to share video testimonies](#) of how you and your church became involved with refugees and how this work has impacted your faith and community. Please share your stories on social media, using the hashtag #UnitedwithRefugees.

Khwaka Kukubo,
Refugee Program Officer
The United Church of Canada

Opening Hymn: MV #142 Oh A Song Must Rise
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer and Jesus' Prayer
Bless, O God, our worship this day,
that it may fill our hearts
with the gladness and holiness of the Sabbath.
Let us receive from it
increased strength and guidance
for our life and work.
So shall the spirit of this day
spread blessings over all days.

A traditional Jewish blessing from *600 Blessings and Prayers from Around the World*, page 17.

WORD

Hymn: Circle of Love *(verses 1 & 2)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: Circle of Love *(verse 3)*
(please remain seated)

Scripture Readings: Genesis 21: 8-21

ONE: We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.

ALL: **May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.**

Reflection: Doctrine of Discovery

Gift of Music: Walls Mark Our Bound'ries - James McLaughlan
Ruth Duck / Jim Strathdee

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Reaching Out to Migrants

Offering

Offertory Hymn: MV #156 Dance with the Spirit *(sung twice)*
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication:
Take the gifts we offer,
not as a means to rescue others,
but as a means for relationship and for connection,
as a means to build bridges between strangers,
as a means to embody the good news. Amen
Adapted from: Gord Dunbar, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2015, page 40.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: MV #148 Hope of Abraham and Sarah
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

ONE: God bless us as we journey:

ALL: **through indifference in search of action**
through war in search of peace
through oppression in search of freedom
through hate in search of acceptance
through life in search of you.
God bless us as we journey.

Choral Closing: Go Now in Peace

Don Besig & Nancy Price

Postlude

Prayers from: World Refugee Day Prayer Service by Alydia Smith and Khwaka Kukubo
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Lectionary Readings for July 2, 2017

Genesis 22 : 1-14

Psalms 13 (VU p. 734)

Romans 6 :12-23

Matthew 10 :40-42

A Refugee Prays for a Blessing

Bless to me my feet
that they may create a path
where no path yet exists.

Bless to me my shoulders
that they may carry riches
when all my riches have been removed.

Bless to me my tears
that they might wash the dead
though the dead lie untended in the dust.

Bless to me my hands
that they might make a home
in every stopping place away from home.

Bless to me my heart
that I may go on loving
when no loving is shown to me.

Bless to me my spirit
that it may rise in hope
even when reasonable hope is gone.

Bless to me my life
that I may defy the power of death
should death bend over me tonight.

From: Kate Compton, England,
600 Blessings and Prayers from around the world,
page118.