



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, June 24, 2018

Your Will be Done on Earth

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Reader: Staci Schaitel
Pianist: Mary Anderson

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

“Irreparable damage can be caused by attributing suffering and death to God’s will... Before we call something the will of God, we should check to make sure that it is consistent with what Jesus taught us about God. – Ron Lavin, “Abba”

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: VU #374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre
(verse three) (please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: When we come to this place,
what are we looking for?
When we gather together,
what do we hope to find?

ALL: Community?
Caring?
Christ?

ONE: When we come to this place,
what are we bringing?
When we gather together,
what do we hope to offer?

Prayer of Dedication

**We present these gifts, and the gifts
of our own living, sharing and action,
so that your will on earth
may be fulfilled. Amen.**

From: Beth W Johnston, *Gathering* Pentecost 1 2018, page 45.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #686 God of Grace and God of Glory
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Closing: The Blessing of Water and Light and Air
*Words by Shirley Erena Murray
& Music by Ron Klusmeier*

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for July 8, 2018

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48 (VU pp.772-773)
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

Worship Schedule

The Lord’s Prayer – Sermon Series

July 1	Ecumenical Service at Kinetic Exhibition Park 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast 10:00 a.m. – Worship
July 8	“Give Us our Daily Bread” - Rev. Annette Taylor
July 15	Honouring the Sacred - Adele Heise
July 22	“Forgive Us our Debts” - Rev. Annette Taylor

**ALL: Our love?
Our lives?
Ourselves?**

ONE: Whatever you're looking for,
whatever you bring, know this:
you are God's beloved,
and you are welcome here.

ALL: Let us celebrate God's presence!

Adapted from: Richard Bott, *Gathering Pentecost 1* 2018, page 33.

Hymn: MV #30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery,

**as we gather this morning
give us grace to truly seek your will.**

**Free us from the cares
that claim our thoughts
and fill our hearts.**

**Calm the fears
that chill us to the core of our being
and drive us to despair.**

**Break through the complacency
and the boredom in which
we often take refuge.**

**Awaken within us the sweet longing
for your holy presence, and
fill us with your steadfast love
so that we may do your will on earth.**

Adapted from: John Moses, *Gathering Pentecost 1* 2018, page 37.

The Prayer of Jesus

Beloved, our Father and Mother,
in whom is heaven,
hallowed be your name.
followed be your royal way,
done be your will and rule,
throughout the whole creation.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen

From: *Human Rites – Worship Resources for an Age of Change*, compiled by
Hannah Ward & Jennifer Wild.

WORD

Hymn: MV #151 Your Will Be Done *(sung twice)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: MV #151 Your Will Be Done *(sung once)*
(please remain seated)

Scripture: Psalm 9 *(VU 732-733 - with sung refrain)*

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: Your Will be Done on Earth

Hymn: VU #400 Lord Listen to Your Children Praying
(sung 3 times)

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: An Investment in the Future

Offering

Offertory Hymn: VU#468 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
(verse 2) (please stand as you are able)

United Church reflects on guidelines for ethical adoption

At its March 2018 meeting, after reviewing a report of Theologies of Adoption from the Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee, the Executive of the General Council adopted the report as an official statement of the United Church on the subject of adoption.

The committee had been directed in 2013 to research and create a statement on adoption. In doing so, it reviewed dozens of personal stories covering a wide spectrum of experience. “Some stories told of individuals and communities turning to non-traditional methods of family creation by bringing together families of choice when biological families did not, or could not, offer what they needed. Other stories reflected a reality of coercion, control, and loss.” The committee looked in particular into the church’s history operating maternity homes, and its involvement in the Sixties Scoop that saw many Indigenous children removed from their culture, community, and family. It examined the diverse motivations to have or not have children, broad understandings of family, including those of the LGBTQ2+ communities, and the rights of children in every family to be cared for with love.

Above all, the committee saw adoption as a complex issue:

The Committee has been struck by the complexity of adoption. For some—whether an adoptee, an adoptive parent, or a parent who placed a child for adoption—the experience has been largely positive. For others, that experience has been painful and negative, and for still others, mixed. Over the past century significant changes in societal attitudes regarding the concept of “the family,” not to mention cultural differences in how various communities understand “family,” add to the complexity.

The report concludes by offering a vision for ethical adoption that will “honour, nurture, and value children.” [Read the report](#)