



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, August 26, 2018

### 14<sup>th</sup> After Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Reader: Marie Andrews  
Pianist: Mary Anderson  
Organist: Patti McCleary

## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart.  
Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling  
and scatter there Thy cheerful beams.  
- Saint Augustine*

*Where mercy, love and pity dwell,  
there God is dwelling too.  
- William Blake*

### Welcome and Announcements

### Sharing of Peace/Prelude

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Centering Hymn: VU #382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God**  
*(verses 1 & 2) (please remain seated)*

### Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 84)*

ONE: How lovely is God's dwelling place.

**ALL: My soul longs, even faints for the courts of God.**

ONE: Happy are those who dwell in God's house.

**ALL: Happy are those whose strength is in God's love.**

ONE: The Holy Spirit is our sun and our shield.

**ALL: The Holy Spirit gives us grace and honour.**

ONE: Come, let us celebrate the presence of God!

## Worship Schedule

Sep 2	Labour Day Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 9	Welcome Back Sunday -with Potluck Lunch	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 16	"Wisdom"	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 23	M&S Sunday	- Outreach Committee

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### Recent Events

Thursday, August 23 – Bill Forester Funeral Service

Friday, August 24 – Jane McIntyre Graveside Service

## Experiences of Racism Break into the Open at GC43

The predictable processes of the 43rd General Council veered into uncharted territory as Indigenous and racialized commissioners and guests took to the microphones and for two hours shared their deeply personal experiences of racism and marginalization in the church. This turning point in the proceedings, near the end of the last day of business, Friday, July 27, was a powerful call to the church for true transformation.

Responding to a reflection by Intercultural Observer Paul Douglas Walfall, who called on the church to recognize its own racism and the marginalization of racialized members, youth delegate Daniel MacDonald and commissioner Penny Nelson presented a proposal that the General Council ask their racialized siblings for forgiveness, and that business processes and procedures be "transformed" from this point forward.

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**Opening Hymn: VU #410 This Day God Gives Me**  
*(verses 1, 2 & 3) (please stand as you are able)*

**Opening Prayer**

**Compassionate God,  
Be present with each of us today  
that we may dwell in your love.  
Steady us and remind us that  
when you dwell in us  
we can be channels of peace  
and hope and healing.  
We pray in the name of Jesus  
who came to reconcile and make us new.**

Adapted from: Juanita Austin, *Worship for All Seasons II – Year B*, pg. 223.

**The Lord's Prayer** *(sung version – VU #959)*

**WORD**

**Hymn: MV #92 Like a Rock** *(sung twice)*  
*(please remain seated)*

**Community Learning Time**

**Hymn: MV #92 Like a Rock** *(sung once)*  
*(please remain seated)*

**Scripture: Psalm 84** (VU pg. 800 - with 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: God's Dwelling Place**

**Hymn: MV #89 Love is the Touch**  
*(please remain seated)*

**RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: Across Turtle Island**

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn: VU #540 Grant Us God, the Grace**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Prayer of Dedication**

**These are our monetary gifts, O God.  
With them come our hours of work,  
our years of service,  
and the love of our hearts.  
Bless them in the work of this congregation  
and in the compassion  
they can offer the world. Amen.**

From: Kate Gregory, *Gathering Pentecost 1 2018*, page 45.

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: VU #642 Be Thou My Vision** *(verses 1, 2, 3 & 4)*  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Choral Closing: VU #964 Go Now in Peace** *(sung twice)*

**Postlude**

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**Lectionary Readings for September 2, 2018**

Song of Solomon 2:8-13  
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 (VU p. 769)  
James 1:17-27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## Moderator Richard Bott at Closing Worship: The Church Is Hungry for Change



The Right Rev. Richard Bott, newly installed Moderator of the United Church, opened the final worship at General Council declaring that he is the “epitome of privilege” in a time when the church is hungry for change and needs to fully embrace racialized and marginalized people. “I stand before you tonight as a person who is a White, middle-class, middle-aged, cis, university-educated male. I don’t know what my blinders are even keeping from me, let alone the things I don’t want to look at because I am too scared,” said the Moderator.

Moderator Bott was acknowledging the **emotional period of personal sharing** that came at the close of business today. “When I came into court I heard the voices of this community, racialized and Indigenous folk, people who spoke with courage and vulnerability to me.”

Then he picked up the bundle of ashes that was presented at that time to the General Council by the All Native Circle Conference Speaker, Cheryl Jourdain. He said, “All I can say right now is ... that I have to learn and pick up this bundle until it is gone from char to ash. The grace is that I am not the only one who is going to pick this up. I pray that you are going to pick them up with me—that we might be changed by God’s grace.”

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