



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, September 2, 2018

15th after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Reader: Melanie Davis
Pianist: Sharon Veer
Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

“One can be master of what one does, but never of what one feels.”

- Gustave Flaubert

“To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

*“He who controls others may be powerful,
but he who has mastered himself is mightier still.”*

- Lao Tzu

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

ONE: It's Labour Day weekend,

**ALL: summer holidays are over and life is accelerating
as our activities and responsibilities start all over again.**

ONE: And so we come:

**ALL: Yearning for food for the journey;
Praying that the Spirit will guide our living;
Listening for the Creator's movement within us;
Singing our thankfulness and praise.**

ONE: We come ready to celebrate God's presence in our lives.

Inspired by: Gord Dunbar, *Gathering Pentecost 1* 2018, page 47.

Worship Schedule

Fruits of the Spirit Sermon Series

Sep 9	Welcome Sunday “Goodness”- Rev. Annette Taylor -with Potluck Lunch	
Sep 16	“Wisdom”	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 23	M&S Sunday “Kindness”	- Outreach Committee
Sep 30	“Faith/Trust”	- Rev. Annette Taylor

GC43 Clears the Way for Remit Implementation

On the final afternoon of the 43rd General Council (July 27), commissioners approved and made final amendments to proposals related to remit implementation. The remits themselves were enacted on Sunday, July 22. The proposals clarified or expanded on details and aspects of the upcoming structural changes. In summary:

- The term “General Council” will be maintained, although “denominational council” is the legal description of the decision-making body of the church.
- The proposal to make clusters and networks a priority was referred to the General Secretary.
- The work of the current task group on the Association of Ministers will be made a priority.
- The assessment rate for 2019–2021 is 4.5 percent of adjusted total revenues. Pastoral charges for whom this would result in an increase of more than 10 percent have the option to phase it in.
- Revisions to the Basis of Union have been referred to the Executive of the General Council to finalize.

Full details on the decisions can be found in the [GC43 Digital Workbook](#).

RESPONSE

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

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery,
we come to worship just as we are.
We cannot pretend to be what we are not,
for you have made us and know us through and through.
In our weakness, we come with prayers for strength;
In our strength, we come with prayers of thanksgiving.
Open our hearts that we might pray honestly,
and await your answers with renewed faith.
May our praise and prayer be unrestrained.

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, pg. 29.

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

WORD

Hymn: MV #157 I Am a Child of God *(verses 1, 2 & 3)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: MV #157 I Am a Child of God *(verses 4 & 5)*
(please remain seated)

Scripture: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
James 1:17-27

ONE: We read these texts so that in them we may find wisdom for life.

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

Reflection: “Self-Control”

Hymn: VU #506 Take My Life and Let It Be
(please remain seated)

Minute for Mission: Spiritual and Practical Care in the City

Offering

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

Prayer of Dedication

Hesitant and fearful,
still we offer ourselves and our gifts, O God.
Bless the giving,
that it may mould us as your disciples.
Bless the gifts
as tools by which you work in the world.
Bless our call to follow in faith,
that we may lift high Christ's love
for a hurting and a divided world. Amen.

From: Gord Dunbar, *Gathering Pentecost 1* 2018, page 45.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #595 We Are Pilgrims
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning and Benediction

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

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for September 9, 2018

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125 (VU p. 849)

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

National Anti-poverty Strategy Welcomed

The United Church of Canada welcomes the federal government's announcement of Canada's first national anti-poverty strategy—Opportunity for All. The strategy is a fruit of years of advocacy by anti-poverty and faith organizations. We are keen to work with the government to ensure that the plans include mechanisms to diminish discriminatory barriers and systemic issues that impoverish Canadians. According to Dignity for All, 4.9 million Canadians, or 1 in 7, struggle to make ends meet: to pay rent, feed their families, and address basic needs.

The federal poverty reduction strategy sets a target to reduce poverty rates in Canada by 50 per cent of 2015 rates by 2030. We are pleased that this target and timeline, along with a National Advisory Council, will all be enshrined in legislation.

At the same time, the United Church is concerned that the plan does not contain new funding commitments or programs to enable it to reach this target. Substantial and ongoing funding is needed to reduce poverty rates. It is our expectation that the National Advisory Council will serve as an accountability mechanism centred on the voices of people living in poverty.

The plan also falls short in failing to recognize the centrality of working directly with Indigenous governments, respecting their right to self-determination as found in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a way of eliminating poverty among Indigenous peoples in Canada, including the loss of language, land, and so on.

[Read More](#)