



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, September 16, 2018

17th after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Reader: Karen Messer
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

Wisdom begins in wonder.

- Socrates

*The seat of knowledge is in the head;
of wisdom, in the heart.*

*We are sure to judge wrong,
if we do not feel right.*

- William Hazlitt

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: MV #14 Where Two or Three are Gathered
(sing three times) (please remain seated)

Call to Worship

LEFT: When our hearts are open,

RIGHT: when our egos trust enough to be at rest,

LEFT: when we invite the Divine into our lives,

RIGHT: not to do our bidding,

LEFT: but to see the ways of Wisdom, She comes –

RIGHT: as breath, as fire, as inspiration, as calm stillness,

LEFT: as disturbing holy presence.

RIGHT: Let us open our hearts and our minds,

LEFT: let us listen for the voice of Wisdom.

Adapted from: Jaunita Austin, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2016, page 27.

Worship Schedule

Fruits of the Spirit Sermon Series

Sep 23	M&S Sunday “Kindness”	- Outreach Committee
Sep 30	“Faithfulness”	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Oct 7	Thanksgiving Sunday “Joy”	- Rev. Annette Taylor - World-wide Communion
Oct 14	“Patience”	- Norma Hain

Moderator's Welcome Message



Moderator Richard Bott invites us to listen carefully to ourselves and to one another, and then to let our action be full of love.

[Watch Video](#)

Hello, my name is Richard Bott. My pronouns are “he,” “him,” and “his.” This past July, the General Council elected me as the 43rd Moderator of The United Church of Canada.

I’ve been asked what it is that I’m hoping to focus on over the next three years. I’d really like to see us—as individuals, as communities of faith, and as a denomination—to explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in The United Church of Canada in the 21st century. Who is Jesus—for me, for you, and for us—and what does that mean for how we live and work and celebrate the presence of the divine together? Part of the joy of The United Church of Canada is that we have so many different answers to these questions—and, when we get down into the vulnerable depths of discussion, we have the ability to experience God’s presence in powerful ways, learning from one another. *(continued on back of bulletin)*

Opening Hymn: VU #299 Teach Me, God, to Wonder
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Sister Wisdom,

**we come today ready to be filled
with your healing power.**

Open our hearts to your nurturing presence.

Open our minds to your divine truth.

May they free us to become

people of peace and justice,

holy friends of God and earth.

WORD

Hymn: MV #10 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

(verses 1 & 2) (please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: MV #10 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

(verse 3) (please remain seated)

Scripture: Proverbs 1:20 - 2:6

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: "Wisdom"

Choral Offering: The Wind

- Cat Stevens

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Advocacy in Action

Offering

Offertory Hymn: VU #538 For the Gift of Creation

(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God,

these gifts and all the others that we offer,

represent only a portion of your blessings to us.

We return them to you,

that they may be used for your work in the world.

Amen.

Adapted from: Wanda Winfield, Gathering Pentecost 2 2018, page 39.

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: VU #298 When You Walk from Here

(sung twice)

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for September 23, 2018

Proverbs 31 :10-31

Psalm 1 (VU p. 724)

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

Note: **Outreach Committee** will be using:

Proverbs 21:21

Mark 12:28-34

(continued from previous page)

I believe that the Holy Spirit was moving at the [43rd General Council](#)—in gusts that carried us further along paths that we’ve been discerning for a time—as we listened to, and accepted, the calls to action of the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle. We have a long way to go to truly become people walking together in right relationship with each other and with the Creator, but I am so thankful for the teachings and the challenge that our Indigenous siblings have been willing to offer, and that those of us in Christ’s church who are settlers and descendants of settlers are listening, learning, and acting.

I believe that the Holy Spirit was moving at the 43rd General Council—in a gale-force whirlwind, when racialized commissioners and commissioners who are differently abled spoke of the experiences in their lives of racism and ableism—not just in the world but in The United Church of Canada. In those few hours, God challenged those of us who are part of the dominant church to realize that every single person is a beloved child of God and to do the deep, hard work of rooting out and changing our internalized and overt racism and ableism.

In all of this, there is listening that needs to happen, and conversations that need to happen, and there’s action that *needs* to happen. There are moments that each of us will feel overwhelmed. If we take a look at the biblical stories, there are times that many of the disciples who walked right beside Jesus were overwhelmed—even ran away. But they came back, and they lived Jesus’ Way to the best of their ability.

There are so many things happening in the life of our church and in the world around us right now. Political changes, social changes, structural changes, and all of these changes, whether we think they’re good or not, add to our stress. There’s a phrase that I once heard used by a Buddhist teacher, a play on words that both makes me smile and gives me pause, “Don’t just do something. Sit there!” It was their way of challenging the listener to stop and simply be until the moment was right to act.

For me, as a disciple of Jesus, those moments of quieting myself are a lead-in to the conversation with God that we often call prayer. So I’d invite you, in those moments when all of the change, all of the transition threatens to be overwhelming, “Don’t just do something. Sit there!” Listen carefully—to yourself, to your neighbour, and to God. *Then* act, and let your action be as full of your love and God’s love as you are able to make it! Let’s see where Jesus’ Way is leading us today.

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