



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, September 9, 2018

Welcome Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Reader: Ron Toles
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power,
but in character and goodness.*

*People are just people,
and all people have faults and shortcomings,
but all of us are born with a basic goodness.*
- Anne Frank

Goodness is the only investment that never fails.
- Henry David Thoreau

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

ONE: You are here. I am here

ALL: The choir is here. The children are here.

ONE: And, through scripture, the Holy Mystery assures us,

**ALL: "Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, among them."**

ONE: So let us worship with joy,

For our God, Creator, Christ and Spirit, is among us!

Adapted from: Elaine Bidgood Sveet, *Gathering Pentecost 2* 2014, page 31.

Worship Schedule

Fruits of the Spirit Sermon Series

Sep 16	"Wisdom"	- Rev. Annette Taylor
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

Celebrating United Church Milestones



*"Propel us into your future,
rooted in the richness of our
past."*

Please join us **September 24,**
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Eastern time for [Marking](#)

[Moments](#), a special day of celebration and learning about several milestone United Church anniversaries happening this year. You can take part in person at Emmanuel College in Toronto **or online via livestream**. There will be scholarly reflections, lively discussion, and Q&A sessions on four milestone anniversaries in The United Church of Canada. [Find out more.](#)

- **50th anniversary of the New Creed.** Reflection: Michael Bourgeois
- **50th anniversary of the union between the United Church and the Evangelical United Brethren.** Reflection: Catherine and John Ambrose
- **30th anniversary of the "Membership, Ministry and Human Sexuality Statement," 1988 General Council** (also known as the "1988 decision"). Reflection: Teresa Burnett-Cole and Ralph Wushke
- **70th anniversary of the founding of the World Council of Churches.** Reflection: Alyson Barnett-Cowan

Find out more and register on [United-in-Learning.com](#).

Opening Hymn: VU #395 Come In, Come In and Sit Down
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

May we,
Relax with the Spirit.
Sway with the music.
Be captured by prayer.
Let worship overtake us.
Now is the time.

Adapted from: Elaine Bidgood Sweet, *Gathering Pentecost 2* 2014, page 31.

WORD

Hymn: VU #575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
(verses 1,2 & 3) (please stand as you are able)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: VU #575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
(verse 4) (please remain seated)

Scripture: Psalm 125 (VU p. 849)
James 2:1-10, 14-17

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: "Goodness"

Choral Offering: All That I Am
- William Himes

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Training Effective Leaders

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 #593 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #298 When You Walk From Here
(sung twice)

Grace for Lunch: VU #549 For All Your Goodness God

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for September 16, 2018

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19 (VU pp. 740-741)

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

*The roots of all goodness
lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness.
- Dalai Lama*

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.

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