



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, May 7, 2023

5th Sunday of Easter

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

Reader: Carole Toles



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

The celebration of May as Asian Heritage Month begins this week. This is a time to prayerfully reflect on the contributions of Asian Canadians to Canadian society.

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #412 *This Is the Day* (verses 1 & 3)
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: We have gathered to celebrate
God's presence in our lives.

**ALL: We have come seeking comfort,
inspiration, community and insight.**

ONE: We have come to open ourselves
to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**ALL: We have come to offer up the seasons
and the turnings in our lives,
and to ask God's help
in our learning and in our growing.**

From: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 21.

Opening Hymn: VU #345 *Come, Children, Join to Sing*
(please stand as you are able)

Worship Schedule

May 14	<i>Mother's Day</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 21	<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 28	<i>Camping Sunday</i> (with recognition of graduates)	- Outreach Committee
Jun 4	<i>UCW Service of Closure</i> (with communion)	- United Church Women

Full-Communion Denominations Visit the Middle East



Seven faith leaders from three Protestant denominations came together in a nine-day journey to the Middle East last month. The United Church of Canada, along with full-communion partners the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ (USA), are involved in this delegation that visited partners in Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine. Find out more about this journey by reading the group's [daily blog posts](#).

[Image: Members of the delegation. Credit: Courtesy of Global Ministries]

Opening Prayer

As the leaves return to the trees,
so your love returns to your people.
As the warmth returns to the land,
so your grace embraces us.
As the geese return to familiar waters,
so we return to old habits.
God of new life,
help us to follow your truth, your life,
and migrate to your way, to your embrace.

Adapted from: Robin Wardlay, *Gathering L/E* 2017, page 40.

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

WORD

Hymn: MV #33 *Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope* (hope, life)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #33 *Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope* (truth)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: John 14:1-14

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.**

Video: *Struggle and Grace:*
Asian Heritage in the United Church

Reflection: *The Way, the Truth and the Life*

Choral Offering: *The Prayer of St. Francis*

Composed by Ryan Cayabyab, National Artist of the
Philippines for Music in 2018
Sung by: Jackie Ravino & Harold Lapuz

RESPONSE

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

**In words of compassion & reconciliation,
Christ is alive!**

**In acts of peacemaking & peace bringing,
Christ is alive!**

**In support for those living with fear and despair,
Christ is alive!**

**In gifts for the local church and for a needy world
Christ is alive!**

May we be evidence of Christ's vitality. Amen.

Adapted from: David Sparks, *Gathering L/E* 2023, p. 50.

Prayers of the People (306-750-8925)

Hymn: VU #606 *In Christ There is No East or West*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #974 *Amen*

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for May 14, 2023

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Church of the Open Bible
Living Skies Regional Council
Glenavon, Moffat
Goose Lake (Harris, Zealandia)

The General Council Office Seeks Youth Climate Motivators



In partnership with The GO Project, the General Council Office is hiring 16 Youth Climate Motivators to join us in raising our spirited voices for climate care and climate justice.

The Youth Climate Motivators will be employed from July 3 to August 25 to work with a local community of faith or United Church ministry on a climate care/climate justice initiative. They will meet online and come together in person in August at [Camp Pringle](#) in Shawnigan Lake, BC. There, they will meet with Moderator Carmen Lansdowne share their local initiatives and develop an action plan to increase the impact of United Church climate care and climate justice initiatives. Learn more about the Youth Climate Motivator positions on the [Job and Volunteer Opportunities webpage](#). Application deadline is May 14, 2023.

[Image: Niklas Pntak on Pixabay]