



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, June 25, 2023

Pride Sunday

Leading Worship: Affirming Ministry Group
Minister: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLauchlan



GATHERING

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting of the Rainbow Candles

Flames of Love by Kimi Floyd Reisch

Gathering Hymn: MV #21 *Open Our Hearts*

– sung by Jean & Jim Strathdee and Friends
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: For all who have taken the risk of loving another,

ALL: we come to give thanks to the God of Courage

ONE: For all who integrate their sexuality and spirituality

ALL: we come to give praise to the God of Life.

ONE: For all who have coloured outside the lines
that society placed around us,

ALL: we come to rejoice with the God of Creativity.

ONE: For all who have lived true to the voice within.

ALL: we come to celebrate with the God of Integrity.

ONE: For all who proclaim their pride
for who they are created to be.

ALL: we come to dance with the God of Joy.

ONE: For all the gifts we have been given,
for the unique creation that is each one of us,

ALL: we come to honour the Creator, the God of All.

Adapted from: Justin Tanis, *Courage to Love*, page 216.

Worship Schedule

July 2	No Service	
July 9	<i>A Love Song</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
July 16	<i>The Sower & the Seed</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
July 23	Eighth after Pentecost	- Karen Messer

Recent Events:

Friday, June 23 – Maria Stewart Memorial Service at First U.C.

Saturday, June 24 – Alyssa Coté & Blaine Wilson Wedding
Service in Wymark

Statement on Anti-LGBTQIA+ Bill in Uganda



The United Church of Canada joins with other civil society organizations in Canada to denounce the anti-LGBTQIA+ bill that passed recently in Uganda.

The time to support LGBTQIA+ allies and activists in Uganda is now.

Gender and sexuality are gifts of God. The United Church of Canada opposes discrimination against anyone, for any reason, that results in someone's worth being devalued.

We urge the Canadian government to continue sharing its concern about the bill to President Museveni.
Read the [full news story](#).

[Image credit: Tim Bieler on Unsplash]

Opening Hymn: MV #30 *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker*

– sung by Ron Klusmeier, Lonnie Moddle and the “Sunday at Three” Singers. (please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**Holy Mystery, Ground of our Being,
when you called each of us into being,
you delighted in your works.**

**You gifted us with differences that illuminate
the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love
in your creation.**

**In whatever ways we still struggle to accept
and celebrate our own unique offerings,
open our hearts and minds so we may be freed
from all that confines, constrains, or condemns
your good work in us.**

Adapted from: *Enfleshed: Worship Service and Communion Liturgy*
for Affirming PIE Day, Option 2, Affirm United.

WORD

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Psalm 139:13-16a

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.

Special Music: *The Village* by Wrabel (video)

Reflection: A Flock United (*with video from Laura Budd*)

Hymn: MV #138 *My Love Colours Outside the Lines*

– sung by Gorden Light and Khoros of St. Michael's Anglican Cathedral,
Kelowna, BC. (please stand as you are able)

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: SW Pride Week

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

**God of Justice,
even as we celebrate your love
for the LGBTQ2SIA community today,
we remember the church has not always done so.
We acknowledge the harm that continues to be done
in your name today.
As we bring our offerings,
we bring also a renewed commitment
to interrupting prejudice and practicing solidarity.
We press on together
until people of every sexual orientation and gender
identity can live freely and without fear,
receiving the love and support all people deserve.
Thanks be to you, our guide and
our help in making it so. Amen.**

From: *Enfleshed: Worship Service and Communion Liturgy* for
Affirming PIE Day, Option 1, Affirm United.

Prayers of the People (306-750-8925)

Closing Hymn: MV #154 *Deep in Our Hearts*

– sung by Ron Klusmeier, Lonnie Moddle and the “Sunday Three” Singers.
(please stand as you are able)

Benediction *Blessed are the Queer*

- written by HP Rivers

Choral Closing: VU # 964 *Go Now in Peace*

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

Living Skies Regional Council

KeLRose (Kelvington, Rose Valley)

Kennedy (Kennedy, Langbanck)

Advocating for Refugees

Today and Every Day



On [World Refugee Day](#), June 20, we recognize the mass movement of people leaving their homes to seek safety, security, and well-being in countries around the world, and here in Canada. Some make it safely, but others perish in the attempt, as we saw last week when an overcrowded boat sank off the shores of Greece. The need to support refugees seeking safety is crucial, and governments must educate and advocate for their protection, no matter how or where they enter our borders.

We reiterate our disappointment in the [Supreme Court's decision](#) on Friday to uphold the Safe Third Country Agreement, despite the Court knowing and recognizing that the United States is not a safe country for refugees.

We must actively protect and fight for their rights.

Read the full [news story](#).

[Image credit: The Associated Press]