



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, July 16, 2023

### Seventh after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reader: Peggy Worrell



## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*The soil is the great connector of our lives,  
the source and destination of us all.*

– Wendell Berry

### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

### Gathering Hymn: MV #21 *Open Our Hearts*

– written Jim Strathdee & sung by Jean Strathdee

### Call to Worship

ONE: God is in you.

**ALL: And also in you!**

ONE: We have come together to worship and pray,

**ALL: to feel God's presence in a personal way.**

ONE: There are scriptures to receive;  
gifts of music and praise.

**ALL: We are ready to learn;  
we have hearts to raise.**

ONE: The dance of Love goes on and on.

**ALL: The music of Spirit is our song.**

Written by: Jani Francis, *Gathering Pentecost 1* 2023, page 37.

### Opening Hymn: VU #409 *Morning Has Broken*

– sung by Jim & Jean Strathdee

### Opening Prayer

We turn from spreading ourselves too thinly,  
hoping that you, O God,  
will spread your grace.

We turn from cultivating affluence,  
hoping that you, O Spirit,  
will cultivate your passion in us.

We turn from day-to-day living,  
hoping that you, O Christ,  
will live in us this morning.

**Grow in us and through us  
to bless this world you love. Amen**

Written by: Wetaskiwin Writers, *Gathering Pentecost 1* 2023, page 41.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **WORD**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**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:** *Seeds of the Kingdom*

**Hymn:** MV #174 *Soil of God*

– composed and sung by Jim Hannah

### **RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission:** *A Declaration to Be Involved in Decision Making*

## **Offering Invitation**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy Mystery,**

**accept these gifts as thanksgiving  
for your many blessings.**

**Accept these gifts as our commitment  
to your kingdom.**

**Accept these gifts  
and accept our lives.**

**Amen.**

Adapted from: Frances Flook, *Gathering Pentecost 1*, page 39.

### **Celebrating Communion**

***Blessed Are Those Who are Called to the Table***

– composed and sung by Linnea Good

**Hymn:** VU #586 *We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection*

– sung by Jim Strathdee

## **Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing:** MV #156 *Dance with the Spirit*

– composed & sung by Jim & Jean Strathdee

## **Postlude**

---

## **Lectionary Readings for July 23, 2023**

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24 (VU p. 861)

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

## **Prayers Cycles**

### **Ministerial**

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

### **Living Skies Regional Council**

Landis, Leader

Lemberg, Abernethy

Long Lake (Bethune, Regina Beach)

## **Worship Schedule**

Jul 23	8 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	- Karen Messer
Jul 30	9 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	- Linda Stumpf
Aug 6	No Service	
Aug 13	11 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost	- Rev. Ray Friesen

---

## **Indigenous and Racialized Youth Retreat**



Call out for candidates to take part in an [Indigenous and Racialized Youth Retreat](#), September 27 to October 1, 2023, at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre.

For this special event, eight Indigenous and eight Racialized youth applicants will be selected to create a youth-orientated space where they can demonstrate how racial equity can lead toward affirming different cultural and spiritual heritages as a worshipping youth community within the United Church. Find out more, and [submit your application](#) by August 1, 2023.