



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, July 23, 2023

Eighth after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Karen Messer
Reader: Fran Jackson



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

“O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom.”

- *from a “Traditional Native American Prayer”*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #21 *Open Our Hearts*

Call to Worship

ONE: God’s Spirit calls to our spirits,

ALL: inviting us to worship.

ONE: God’s Spirit calls to our spirits,

ALL: inviting us by love.

ONE: God’s Spirit calls to our spirits,

**ALL: calling us by name, calling us to grow in faith,
calling us to be made new.**

ONE: We come to worship in this season of the Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Opening Hymn: MV #299 *Teach Me God to Wonder*

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery,

Ground of our being,

you call us together to reflect on your Word,
and our life in your world.

Be with us now as we sing and pray together,
that we may hear your voice and understand your way.

This we pray through Jesus, the Christ.

And now we join together saying the prayer taught to his disciples:

The Lord’s Prayer

WORD

Scripture Reading: Genesis 28: 10-19a
Romans 8: 13-14, 17-18, 22-24

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: *Adapting to Change*

Hymn: VU page 918 *A New Creed*

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Ecumenical Youth Leadership Development Program*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Mystery,
Ground of our Being,
we offer our gifts of time,
talent and money,
the fruits of your creation.
These gifts represent our answer to your call,
and our willingness to respond.
May they be used to spread your Love
throughout the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Hymn: VU #603 *In Loving Partnership We Come*

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for July 30, 2023

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b (VU p. 838 Part One) or Psalm 128

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Langham: Knox, Lumsden: St. Andrew's

Luseland, Elbow-Loreburn

Atwater, Maple Creek

Worship Schedule

Jul 30	9 th after Pentecost	- Linda Stumpf
Aug 6	No Service	
Aug 13	11 th after Pentecost	- Rev. Ray Friesen
Aug 20	12 th after Pentecost	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Annette is Away

Annette will away from Wednesday, July 19 to Tuesday, July 25.

In the case of a pastoral emergency please contact the church office at 306-773-9353 or firstunitedchurch@sasktel.net.

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism Starts in October!



There's brand-new content coming for this year's [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#). In addition to the daily written content that will be posted online, a dynamic set of speakers will be sharing their insights on Tuesdays. The speakers will explore these diverse themes: race shifting; anti-racist and decolonial theologies; raising anti-racist children; environmental racism; countering antisemitism; intergenerational Asian voices; and copyright justice and musical misappropriation. There's no cost for the online events! You can register for all of the [live events on ChurchX](#). Consider [signing up for the 40 Days newsletter](#) to stay up-to-date on all of the developments related to the 40 Days for this year!

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]
