



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, July 30, 2023

Ninth after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Linda Stumpf
Reader: Fran Jackson



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

We know that God makes everything work together for the good of those who love God and have been called according to God's purpose...For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither heights nor depths - nor anything else in all creation - will be able to separate us from the love of God. Romans 8:28,38

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #21 *Open Our Hearts*

- written by Jim Strathdee & sung by Jean Strathdee

Call to Worship

ONE: We come from places of rest and renewal: summer cottages, backyard decks and gardens, the heat of the summer sun, and shady spots to read, into the love and grace of God.

ALL: Filled with the love of God and the hope of the Spirit.

ONE: As God can be seen in the beauty of creation, so God can be seen in this place.

ALL: We come to reconnect. We come to see the face of God in the faces of others. We find courage to live faithfully as people of God

Opening Hymn: VU #415 *God We Praise You for the Morning*

- composed and sung by Jean & Jim Strathdee

Opening Prayer

Spirit God, who speaks our prayers for us in sighs too deep for words, hold us in your love, and comfort us with your presence, that we might be renewed and encouraged, to do our part in the healing of your world. Amen

Nancy Hardy, Toronto, ON Gathering Pentecost 1 2014 page 31

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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: *The Kingdom*

Hymn: MV #154 *Deep in Our Hearts*

- words by John Wesley Oldham ©1995, music by Ron Klusmeier, ©1995 Musiklus (Admin Hope Publishing Co.)

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Learning the Gospel at Camp*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Mystery,

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

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

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

Amen.

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

Prayers of the People

Hymn: VU #556 *Would You Bless Our Homes and Families*

- words by Walther Farquharson, and music by Ron Klusmeier. The “Sunday at Three”
singers led by Ron Klusmeier and Lonnie Moddle.

Commissioning & Benediction

As you go into the blessings of this summer day, may you go refreshed by our worship together,
inspired to be a blessing to all whom you meet, and sustained by the ever flowing Spirit who
blesses us with every breath.

Adapted from Juanita Austin First UC, Salmon Arm BC Gathering Summer/Autumn 2011

Choral Closing: VU #586 *We Shall Go Out With Hope of Resurrection*

- words by June Boyce-Tillman, sung by Jim Strathdee with Jean Strathdee

Postlude

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

St. Stephen’s Anglican Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Melfort, Melville: First

Moose Jaw: Minto, Maidstone

Saskatoon: Mayfair, Moosomin

Worship Schedule

Aug 6	No Service	
Aug 13	11 th after Pentecost	- Rev. Ray Friesen
Aug 20	12 th after Pentecost	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Aug 27	13 th after Pentecost	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Flourishing: The Moderator's Project



The Moderator is on a three-year journey to connect with the nation on big questions. With the goal of enhancing “flourishing” in church, among our leadership, and within the broader community, she is encouraging dialogue on this question of flourishing, and how it could influence our future.

You can look forward to The Mod’s Book Squad, a national book club (including four Centennial events in 2024-25), regional tours, and a Leadership School to invigorate church leadership for the 21st century.

Read more about the [Flourishing Project](#)!

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]