



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, July 9, 2023

### Sixth after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Reader: Jim Pratt



## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*"True sexuality is vast and mysterious. It involves all of you.  
I mean, you have a body, but you also have a soul and a spirit.  
And love is two people coming together and giving all  
of themselves to each other, forever." — Rob Bell*

### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

### Gathering Hymn: MV #12 *Come Touch Our Hearts*

### Call to Worship

ONE: Let us gather our hearts and minds

**ALL: from busy-ness and bothering,**

ONE: from worry and weariness,

**ALL: from distraction and despair.**

ONE: Let us gather our hearts and minds

**ALL: for prayer and praising,**

ONE: for singing and for swaying,

**ALL: for wonderment and joy.**

ONE: Let us worship God

in the beauty of holiness.

Written by: Kate Crawford, *Gathering Pentecost 1* 2017, page 28.

### Opening Hymn: VU #333 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

### Opening Prayer

Loving God, your desire for us  
calls us and equips us.

Your love for us  
gifts us and encourages us.

Far deeper than any regret of ours  
is the pervasive love  
with which you hold us.

May we strive to love with  
the same desire,

**the same generosity, and  
the same depth of emotion.**

Adapted from: Daryl Webber, *Gathering Pentecost 1* 2017, page 31.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **WORD**

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67**

**The Song of Songs 2:8-13**

**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:** *A Love Song*

**Hymn:** VU #266 *Amazing Grace*

### **RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission:** *Inspiring Generations to Lead*

**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** (306-750-8925)

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

**Commissioning & Benediction**

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

**Postlude**

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## **Lectionary Readings for July 16, 2023**

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalm 119:105-112 (VU p. 841)

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

## **Prayers Cycles**

### Ministerial

Restoration House

### Living Skies Regional Council

Kipling, Kyle, Regina: Knox Metropolitan

La Ronge, Lafleche (Lafleche, Limerick)

Regina: Lakeview, Lanigan

## **Worship Schedule**

|        |   |                       |
|--------|---|-----------------------|
| Jul 16 | <i>The Sower &amp; the Seed</i><br>(with communion) | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| Jul 23 | 7 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost                     | - Karen Messer        |
| Jul 30 | 8 <sup>th</sup> after Pentecost                     | - Linda Stumpf        |
| Aug 6  | No Service  |                       |

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## **Response to the Decision on the Safe Third Country Agreement**



On June 16, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled to uphold the constitutional validity of the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) between Canada and the United States. The United Church of Canada has written to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister Sean Fraser to affirm our solidarity to continue our collaborative work of advocating for migrant justice and refugee rights with our ecumenical and civil society networks.

The church also urged the government to implement their promise by creating a regularization program granting permanent residence to all undocumented migrants. Read the letter and the full [news story](#).