



FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Swift Current, SK
Sunday, August 13, 2023
Eleventh after Pentecost
Leading Worship: Rev. Ray Friesen
Reader: Melanie Davis



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*Faith is a place of mystery, where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty. (Brené Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection*)*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #409 *Morning Has Broken*

Call to Worship

ONE: As we gather here, coming from the week that has been,

ALL: slow down our minds and quiet our hearts.

ONE: As we spend this hour in worship,

ALL: speak to us again of your love and your calling of us.

ONE: As we leave to enter another week of life,

**ALL: may this worship have made our hearts bolder,
our courage stronger and our faith more confident.**

Opening Hymn: VU #232 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, Ground of our Being

Creator and Keeper of All that Is

Source of Love and Healing

we gather this morning

for another time of worship.

Some because we seek comfort,

some because we love praise

and some, well, just because.

Whatever our sense of expectation,

may we hear you speak to us out of the Mystery,

may the experience of love grow strong as we recognize you in each other.

May our worship nurture our faith.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15–19

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: *Beautiful Eyes*

Hymn: MV #21 *Open Our Hearts*

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Your Generosity Settles Families*

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.

Prayers of the People

ONE: And so we ask

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Hymn: VU #703 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

Commissioning & Benediction

As we leave here and enter another week of living in our world, may we do so with a renewed confidence in our memories of God at work, a wilder imagination that allows us to see what others do not, and an assurance that in the mystery and uncertainty, we can have faith in a God who is and who is Present, Loving, and Caring. Amen.

Choral Closing: Psalm 23 *The Lord's My Shepherd*

Postlude

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Salvation Army

Trailview Alliance

Living Skies Regional Council

New Venture (Kincaid, Ponteix)

Neilburg, Maymont

Norquay, Oxbow

Worship Schedule

Aug 20	Daring Justice	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Aug 27	Bold Discipleship	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 3	Deep Spirituality	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 10	Welcome Back Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor

The United Church Calls on Manitoba to Search the Landfill



Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran were murdered in 2022 and left in a Winnipeg landfill. Their families and communities are calling for a search of the landfill, but the province of Manitoba refuses.

The United Church of Canada believes that the inherent dignity of every human being must be respected. In life, and now in death, Morgan, Mercedes, and thousands of other missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit people have been denied the dignity and respect that they deserve.

We call on the government to bring Morgan and Mercedes home to their loved ones. We are in solidarity with Camp Morgan and Camp Mercedes in Winnipeg.

Join us in our social media solidarity campaign to **#SearchTheLandfill**

Read the [news full story](#) and visit the [United Church Facebook page](#) or [Instagram channel](#) to share graphics.

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