



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, August 20, 2023

Daring Justice

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Reader: Karen Messer



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

UCC Call/Mission: *Deep Spirituality
Bold Discipleship
Daring Justice*

UCC Vision:
*Called by God, as disciples of Jesus,
The United Church of Canada seeks to be
a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse,
courageous, hope-filled communities
united in deep spirituality,
inspiring worship, and daring justice.*

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/our-call-and-our-vision>



Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: *Holy Spirit, Live in Me*

— Written & Sung by Jim Strathdee

Call to Worship

ONE: Why? That is the question.
Why are we here, in this sanctuary, or watching at home?
Is it convention, a loyalty to the traditions of our parents?

**ALL: Our parents were guides
but being here is our choice.**

ONE: Is it habit, the practice of a lifetime?

**ALL: Habits we perform without thinking
but being here is our choice.**

ONE: Is it friendship, the tie to others?

**ALL: These ties bind us
but being here is our choice.
We choose to come**

ONE: for our lives to be transformed.

ALL: for the transformation of the world.

Let us come and celebrate the presence of God!

From: *Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice*: Worship Service (Mar. 2020)

<https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/call-and-vision-worship>

Opening Hymn: VU #345 *Come, Children Join to Sing*

– Sung by Jean Strathdee with Jim Strathdee on piano

Opening Prayer

Uniting God,

**you have called us from across oceans and throughout time,
to be the church.**

Give us the courage, humility and grace to humbly accept this call.

Forgive us our zeal, when we are overly deep, bold, and daring,

**slow and steady us so that we may
consider how our piety, discipleship and witness
affects those around us, and**

best embody the way and teachings of Christ in the world.

Guide and support us when the journey is treacherous,

**when the mountains are too high and the valleys are too low,
so that for your sake, and by your grace we will be able to:**

Dwell deeper in our connection to you and to each other;

Grow bolder in our commitment to follow Jesus; and

Be daring in our prayer, praise, and practice.

Adapted from: Then Let Us Sing! Hymn Sing

<https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/call-and-vision-worship>

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Scripture Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

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: *Daring Justice*

Hymn: VU # 598 *When Pain of the World*

– Composed and sung by Jim & Jean Strathdee

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Being There for Refugees and Migrants in Morocco*

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 (306-750-8925)

Hymn: *Stand for What is Right*

– music & lyrics by Jim Strathdee,
sung by Jean & Jim Strathdee & friends

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Take This Heart of Mine*

– music & lyrics by Jim Strathdee,
sung by Jean & Jim Strathdee & friends

Postlude

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Victory Family Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Saskatoon: McClure

Meadow Lake

Ogema, Bengough

Pelly

Worship Schedule

Aug 27	Bold Discipleship	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 3	Deep Spirituality	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 10	Welcome Back Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 17	16 th after Pentecost	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Upcoming Meetings & Activities

- Tuesday, August 22 – Membership & Pastoral Care, 10:00 a.m. in Cypress Lounge
- Tuesday, August 22 – Faith Formation, 4:00 p.m. on Zoom
- Wednesday, August 23 – Lectionary Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. on Zoom
- Thursday, August 24 – Coffee Time, 10:30 a.m. in Cypress Lounge
- Thursday, August 24 – Stewardship, 4:30 p.m. on Zoom
- Thursday, August 24 – Outreach, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
- Sunday, August 27 – Worship & Music, 1p.m. on Zoom

Call for Young Adults for UN Climate Change Conference, COP28, in Dubai



From November 30 to December 12, 2023, The United Church of Canada will be sending a small delegation of young adults (ages 19–35) to COP28 in Dubai.

Delegates will have the opportunity to participate, learn, and advocate at COP28, and share climate justice news among the wider church and beyond!

Let's live out our commitment to daring justice, bold discipleship, and deep spirituality in Dubai.

Please [circulate this opportunity](#) to interested young adults (ages 19–35).

Deadline for applications: September 13, 2023. Exact dates to be determined.

[Image credit: COP28 UAE]

Highlights from the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering



[Image: Sara Stratton]

The 2023 National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering, with the theme “Our Strong Voices,” opened on July 28 and concluded on July 30.

[Read all the highlights](#), including a youth gathering, a keynote address from Moderator Carmen Lansdowne, the naming of National Indigenous Council members, remit voting, celebrations, and more!