



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, September 10, 2023

Welcome Back Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Reader: Sharon Walde



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"Being held accountable is an act of generosity and compassion.
It is a gift that someone gives us to correct our wrongs, unlearn,
and do better for the sake of our own growth. It might be uncomfortable,
but it is worth the discomfort." - Minaa B.*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #411 O God We Call
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: We have been called
to this spacious time & place
where we are:

**ALL: fed
with the word of God,**

ONE: refreshed
by the Spirit of God
in prayer and song, and

**ALL: restored
by the loving and welcoming
presence of God
in each other.**

ONE: Come, gather round the table.
All are welcome.

Adapted from: Karen Pryznyk, *Gathering Pentecost 2* 2023, page 30.

Opening Hymn: MV #1 Let Us Build a House
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

**Holy Mystery,
Ground of our Being,
we are ready for Sabbath time.
In this pause from our “to-do” lists
fill us with your peace.
Renew our commitment
to your service.
Disturb our complacency
with your passion.
Open our hearts and minds
to your loving presence.**

Adapted from: Wetaskiwin Writers, *Gathering Pentecost 2* 2023, page 32.

The Lord’s Prayer

WORD

Hymn: *The Whole People of God* (verses 1 & 2) (please remain seated)
– words & music by Jim Strathdee

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: *The Whole People of God* (verse 3) (please remain seated)
– words & music by Jim Strathdee

Scripture Reading: Psalm 149 (VU p. 873 – Refrain 1)

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: *A Two-Edged Sword*

Choral Offering : *Family of Faith*
– words & Music by Valerie MacKenzie

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Providing Tuition Assistance – Hamdan’s Story*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

**Bless these gifts we offer, O God,
shaping them to bring
life, beauty and colour
to the greys of life,
rooting them in movements
for justice and peace,
branching them throughout the world
in loving partnership,**

**invigorating them by the rainbow
of our sharing and caring.**

Amen.

Written by Gord Dunbar, *Gathering Pentecost 2*, page 39.

Prayers of the People (306-750-8925)

Grace for Lunch: VU #552 *For Food In a World*

Closing Hymn: MV #154 *Deep in Our Hearts*

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Go In Love*

– Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig, Music by Don Besig

Postlude

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Alpine Church of God

Living Skies Regional Council

Outlook

Prairie Points (Creelman)

Preeceville-Sturgis

Prince Albert (Calvary)

Worship Schedule

Sep 17	<i>Creation Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 24	<i>Mission & Service Sunday</i>	- Outreach Committee
Oct 1	<i>Truth & Reconciliation</i> (with communion)	- Affirming Ministry Group
Oct 8	<i>Thanksgiving Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Lectionary Readings for September 17, 2023

Exodus 14:19-31

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 (VU p. 876) or Psalm 114

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Action in Support of the Voices at Camp Marcedes and Camp Morgan



[Photo: Courtesy of George Robinson]

On September 5, leaders of four major church denominations joined the voices of supporters in urging provincial political leaders to give the go-ahead to search the Prairie Green Landfill for the remains of two missing Indigenous women, Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran. Harris has been missing since May 2022, and Myran since March of last year. [Read the full news story](#), and find out what you can do to help.

Article in Winnipeg Sun describing the event:
<https://winnipegsun.com/news/provincial/church-leaders-members-stand-in-solidarity-to-call-for-landfill-search>

Learning to Connect: Youth Survey



[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

The United Church of Canada is trying to learn from young people (ages 13-35 years) about what encourages a sense of connection to the church and what blocks their involvement. Please [share this survey](#) with Canadian young people that you know—they don't need to be currently connected with a church in any way!

In appreciation of participating and sharing the survey link, two individuals will be randomly selected to receive a \$25 dollar gift card (options provided).

Broadview Magazine Online

The United Church magazine, *Broadview*, is inviting you to stay connected by signing up for one of their FREE e-newsletters. You can read Broadview's stories and also stay connected with what's going on in the lives of fellow United Churches.

To sign up just click on this link: <https://broadview.org/newsletter/>