



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, September 17, 2023

Sixteenth after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Reader: Deb Fletcher



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation.
Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan,
it is a requirement of our faith.*

– U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship

ONE: We come with praise
for the beauty around us,

**ALL: for prairie, for seas,
for mountains, for trees.**

ONE: We come as stewards,
partners in care

**ALL: of the universe and the earth
and all creatures there.**

ONE: We come in gratitude
for God's graciousness.

**ALL: In our songs and worship,
may our thanks be expressed!**

Adapted from: Karen Koogan, *Gathering Pentecost 2* 2023, page 25.

Opening Hymn: MV #30 *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

**Maker, Giver, Lover
we join with all of creation
to express our thanks and praise.**

As we sing and pray this morning
may we also reflect
on the role that we play
as co-creators on this earth.
May our hearts and minds
be open to your holy cry.

Written by Annette Taylor, 2023.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: MV #37 *Each Blade of Grass* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #37 *Each Blade of Grass* (verse 3)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:19-31

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: *Creation Unleashed*

Choral Offering: VU #236 *Now Thank We All Our God*
– Words by Norman Habel

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Breaking Down Barriers to Education – Meshack'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)

Closing Hymn: VU #307 *Touch the Earth Lightly*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Go In Love*

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

Postlude

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Bridgeway Community Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Plenty, Dodsland

Moose Jaw: St. Andrew's

Worship Schedule

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
Oct 15	<i>The 23rd Psalm</i>	- Eva Stanley

Lectionary Readings for September 24, 2023

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45 (VU pp. 828-829 Parts 1 & 4)

Philippians 1:21-30-12

Matthew 18:21-35

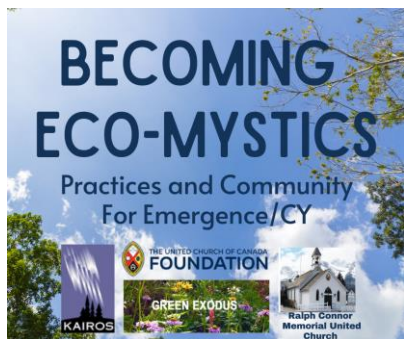
Call for Nominations: Task Group on Apology to Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Communities



[Video still: The United Church of Canada]

The United Church has been called on to offer an apology for the harms and hurts caused to Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ people and communities. We are [seeking individuals who can deeply consider the meaning of apology](#) and craft words to give voice and action to the church's lament and commitment. People who **do not** identify as Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ are particularly encouraged to apply. Nominations close Monday, September 25.

Eco-Mystics Zoom Workshop Starts October 3



Karl Rahner has said that if the church is going to survive we need to become mystics—perhaps if humans are going to survive we need to become eco-mystics. In this course you will:

- Become familiar with practices that enable us to become eco-mystics—including meditating outside.
 - Use liturgy and ritual with the four elements and poetry to stay present to our beautiful, rapidly changing biosphere and the resulting emergence/cy.
- Create a relational container to name what is most alive, from grief to joy, new thoughts, emergent actions, and new connections.
 - Use Mark Coleman's *A Field Guide to Nature Meditation* for personal weekly practice.

[Register](#) and learn more about this program and [Green Exodus](#).

[Image credit: Green Exodus]

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/>