



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, September 24, 2023

Mission & Service Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

Reader: Outreach Committee



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"The miracle is this:
The more we share the more we have."
— Leonard Nimoy*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship

We are many,

God's great diversity

Yet we are one in Christ.

We are from different places

Yet we are one in Christos.

We are nurses, teachers, farmers, lawyers, scientists, office workers

Yet we are one in Mashiah.

We are parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends

Yet we are one in Christi.

We are Filipino, Germanic, Scandinavian, Anglo-Saxon

Yet we are one in Jesus.

We are confused, happy, disappointed, lonely, overwhelmed

Yet we are one in Yeshua.

We are many,

God's great diversity,

And yet, by God's grace, we sing in harmony, as one.

For we are one in Jesu.

Adapted from Alydia Smith, inspired by [Engage Worship](#)

Opening Hymn: MV #28 God of the Bible
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

We know that there is more than enough for all—
enough food, enough shelter, enough love, enough resources—
and yet there are too many people without.

We know this.

We know that we have fallen short on our promises to love, to share,
to build your kin(g)dom on earth, as it is in heaven.

We know this.

We know that God's reign will come when we are all loved and accepted;
when we all have what we need to thrive;
when we are all free to dance and party in community.

We know this.

We know that there is much work to do to bring about your reign;
And we know that we will not be left to do it alone,
We know that you, God, are always with us.
Jesus is always beside us,
and the Spirit is always guiding us.

We know that
as long as we follow in the way that you are leading.

We know this

your holy reign will surely come.

Written by Alydia Smith.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: MV #145 *Draw the Circle Wide* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time — Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #145 *Draw the Circle Wide* (verse 3)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:8-15
Acts 2:42-47

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: *Striking a Balance*

Choral Offering: *Stand For What is Right*
- music & lyrics by Jim Strathdee

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Education beyond Classroom Walls*

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: MV #209 *Go, Make a Difference*
(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

“It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.”
— Irish Proverb

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Christ the Redeemer Parish

Living Skies Regional Council

Prairie Spirit (Dinsmore, Miden, Wiseton)

Quill Plains (Quill Lake, Watson)

Lectionary Readings for October 1, 2023

Exodus 17:1-17

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16 (VU p. 792 Parts 1 2)

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

Worship Schedule

Oct 1	<i>Truth & Reconciliation</i> (with communion)	- Affirming Ministry Group
Oct 8	<i>Thanksgiving Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Oct 15	<i>What's in a Translation?</i>	- Eva Stanley
Oct 22	<i>Caesar's Coin</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Solidarity and Action with 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth



The United Church of Canada is calling for the protection and affirmation of the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, particularly transgender and non-binary youth. [Gender and sexuality are gifts of God](#) and all persons are made in the image of God. Policies and guidelines related to gender identity and expression in educational and healthcare settings should uplift care and service providers, support transgender and non-binary students and youth, and create 2SLGBTQIA+ and gender affirming schools.

The United Church of Canada calls on its members and people of goodwill to continue demonstrating solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, to foster inclusive and safer environments in learning institutions, community and within family settings. Take action by [contacting your Member of Parliament](#) and/or your provincial leaders and ask them to safeguard and affirm existing legislation. [Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble](#), and Affirming Connections, are also offering resources to challenge 2SLGBTQIA+ hate, and to share positive affirming messages to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Learn more and [read the full news story](#).

[Image credit: BrutallyHonest from Pixabay]

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism Returns!



Delve deeply into anti-racism work with a 40-day time of learning, reflection, and action! During these 40 days, there will be brand-new content, and a new line-up of speakers with [online events](#) each Tuesday. [Sign up for the newsletter](#) for the latest updates! [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#) officially kicks off on Tuesday, October 10.

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]
