



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, October 15, 2023

Twentieth after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Eva Stanley
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary
Reader: Marie Andrews



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

“When I breathe in I draw in the breath of all things, when I exhale I contribute to the breath of all things. I am connected, I am joined to the channel of loving, nurturing energy that joins and sustains all of us.”

- Richard Wagamese - *“What Comes From Spirit”*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship:

ONE: I rise today through the strength of the universe,
ALL: with the light of sun, radiance of moon, splendor of fire.
ONE: I rise today through the strength of the earth,
ALL: with the speed of lightning, swiftness of wind, depth of the soil.
ONE: I rise today through the strength of creation,
ALL: with the stability of earth and the firmness of rock.
ONE: I rise today
ALL: complete with the Gift of Love to give and receive. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU #374 *Come and Find the Quiet Centre*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

Gentle Shepherd, we gather this day within a loving fold for rest and renewal, we yearn to be aware of each other, together, and in living in the world. We look not to wander away, separating ourselves from others, rather we celebrate there is always a welcome for our coming.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: MV #84 *In You There Is a Refuge* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #84 *In You There Is a Refuge* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: *Psalm 23*

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: *Comfort and Grace*

Choral Offering: VU #747 *Psalm 23 – The Lord's My Shepherd*

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Ecumenical Church Loan Fund: Anert'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

Closing Hymn: MV #150 *Spirit God, Be Our Breath*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

ONE: We are people of all ages who enter this safe space bringing our joys and concerns in the light and beauty of day.

ALL: We give thanks in awe and wonder.

ONE: In the dark and stillness of night

ALL: we dream of healing and hope. For ourselves, for those named or remembered, and in solidarity with those who have not the freedom to express their concern or celebration for fear of discrimination or condemnation. In all our joys and in all our concerns, may we be ever mindful of the presentness of the sacred among us, and to see the new possibilities of the now.

Choral Closing: *Go In Love*

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

Postlude

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Community Baptist Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Rocanville United (Rocanville, Welwyn)

Saskatoon: St. Martin's

Lectionary Readings for October 22, 2023

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalms 99 (VU p.819)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

Worship Schedule

Oct 22	<i>Caesar's Coin</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Oct 29	<i>All Saints Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Nov 5	<i>Remembrance/Peace Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Nov 12	<i>Oil for our Lamps</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

The United Church of Canada Calls for Immediate Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine



The United Church mourns the deaths and injuries already suffered and calls for an immediate ceasefire to the recent escalation in violence in Israel and Palestine.

The United Church condemns the attacks launched on communities in southern Israel by Hamas, and the ongoing daily violence meted out against Palestinians by Israel's deepening occupation in Palestinian territories.

We pray for a just peace in the Holy Land and urge global leaders to work urgently for an end to the current violence, an end to the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories, and a just and lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis. Read the [full statement](#).

[Image credit: Unsplash]

Kindred Works Breaks Ground on Housing Project



Representatives from General Council and Shining Waters joined with [Kindred Works](#) to break ground yesterday on a housing project in Orillia.

This—the first of Kindred Works' redevelopments—is on the site of the [former Regent Park United Church](#) and will add 48 new climate-safe rental homes, a third of which will be below market rent to meet the core housing need of the local community. Ground-floor units will be barrier-free. Project design and landscaping will make the most of passive ventilation and daylight, and retain and enhance surrounding trees.

This first groundbreaking is a huge step forward for Kindred Works and The United Church of Canada, both in responding to the housing crisis and in transforming churches and their sites to meet shared or community needs. Twenty other projects are in the works.

[Image credit: Jennifer Henry/The United Church of Canada]