



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, October 22, 2023

Twenty-first after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

Reader: Janet Keene



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*We make a god out of whatever we find most joy in.
So find your joy in God and be done with all idolatry.
— John Piper*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship:

ONE: God has given us this beautiful earth,
all that grows, all that lives upon it.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ONE: God has given us breath to live and
spirit to sing.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ONE: God has gathered us
into a community of care and worship.

**ALL: Let celebrate the presence of God
with love, thanksgiving and praise.**

From: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 22.

Opening Hymn: VU #401 *Worship the Lord*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

**Holy Mystery, Ground of our Being
we come together as your people.
We come as a praising people,
singing your goodness;**

we come as a praying people,
bringing our needs, our joys;
we come as a listening people,
opening to your Word.
On this day,
may we be filled with your love
and empowered for faithful living.

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 28.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #581 *When We Are Living* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #581 *When We Are Living* (verses 3 & 4)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

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: *Caesar's Coin*

Choral Offering: *Here We Bring, Small or Great*
Music by Ron Klusmeier Words by Shirley Erena Murray

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Building Climate Resiliency*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication:

Take the gifts we offer,
not as a means to rescue others,
but as a means for relationship and for connection,
as a means to build bridges between strangers,
as a means to embody the good news. Amen

Adapted from: Gord Dunbar, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2015, page 40.

Prayers of the People (306-750-8925)

Closing Hymn: VU #697 *O for a World*
(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

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

East Side Church of God

Living Skies Regional Council

St. Paul's International (Estevan, North Portal, Portal, ND, USA)

Silton

Smiley

Lectionary Readings for October 29, 2023 (All Saints' Sunday)

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalms 34:1-10, 22 (VU pp. 761-762)

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

Worship Schedule

Oct 29 *All Saints' Sunday* - Rev. Annette Taylor

Nov 5 *Remembrance/Peace Sunday* - Rev. Annette Taylor

Nov 12 *Oil for our Lamps* - Rev. Annette Taylor

Nov 19 *Parable of the Talents* - Rev. Annette Taylor
(with baptism)

Ecumenical Statement on Violence between Hamas and Israel



KAIROS Canada and its member churches and agencies are following reports of the escalation of violence between Hamas and Israel with deepening alarm and profound grief. We condemn the violence, particularly against Israeli and Palestinian civilians, which constitutes a war crime.

Read the full [Ecumenical Statement on Violence between Hamas and Israel](#).

[Image credit: Khwanchai Phanthong | Dreamstime.com]

The United Church of Canada joins Day of Prayer and Fasting



Responding to the call of the World Council of Churches, The United Church of Canada joined in a Day of Prayer and Fasting on October 17 hosted by the Jerusalem Heads of Churches. Prayers were sought for all who have suffered, for grieving families, and for a de-escalation of the war to save innocent lives.

The United Church also invited particular prayers for religious siblings in our own country—Jewish and Muslim—and any who have family in the region, who are grieving, anguished, and afraid.

This was one specific day of prayer, but the need continues.

For more information read the [full news story](#).

[Image: Photo by Paolo Nicoletto on Unsplash]