



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, October 29, 2023

All Saints Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

Readers: Amanda Polsfut and Jennifer Bingham



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

"We are not called to be successful, we are called to be faithful."
— St. Mother Teresa

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #7 *Gather Us In*

(please remain seated)

Call to Worship:

ONE: We gather here this morning in God's presence
and in the midst of the communion of saints

ALL: to remember all those who have died.

ONE: We gather to remember our ancestors in the faith

ALL: who followed God's call to serve.

ONE: We come to give thanks for their lives.

**ALL: We come seeking
the inspiration and guidance
to carry on their work in the church,
in our community and in the world.**

Adapted from: Bev Leadbeater, *Gathering* Pentecost 2 2019, page 48.

Opening Hymn: MV #12 *Come Touch Our Hearts*

(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, Ground of Our Being,
we give thanks
for all the saints
who went before us
who have spoken to our hearts
and touched us with your fire.

**We give thanks,
for all the saints
who live beside us
whose weaknesses and strengths
are woven with our own.**

**We give thanks,
for all the saints
who live beyond us
who challenge us
to change ourselves and
to change the world with them.**

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 214.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #575 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #575 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* (verses 3 & 4)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

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: *Blessed are You*

Choral Offering: *All Saints* Words by Brian Wren/Music by Ron Klusmeier

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Canadian Foodgrains Bank* – Jennifer Bingham

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 #580 *Faith of Our Fathers*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Go Now In Peace*
– Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig, Music by Don Besig

Postlude

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Family Community Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Saskatoon: St. Paul's

Southey

Spirit Hills (Central Butte, Tugaskie)

Lectionary Readings for November 5, 2023

Joshua 3:7-17

Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37 (VU pp. 831-832 Parts One & Four)

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

Worship Schedule

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)

Nov 26 *Reign of Christ Sunday* - Rev. Ray Friesen

Support the People Impacted by the Conflict in Palestine and Israel



You can support the people impacted by the conflict in Palestine and Israel through your [donations and advocacy](#).

Mission and Service partners are currently responding to those who are impacted by the conflict in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Partners are prepared to expand their activity into Gaza when a humanitarian corridor is opened, allowing for safe access to provide relief. Currently, there is an urgent need for food as well as non-food items such as medicines, psychosocial support, and shelter.

We are working with Mission and Service partners ACT Alliance, [Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees](#) (DSPR), and the Humanitarian Coalition (as a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank) to provide tangible support for the people of the Middle East.

Your help is urgently needed.

You can also write a letter calling for a ceasefire, the opening of a humanitarian aid corridor, and protection of civilians and email it directly to Foreign Affairs Minister The Hon. Mélanie Joly and your local MP using our letter-writing template.

[The United Church of Canada has signed on to a number of statements](#) from our partners and other organizations calling for a ceasefire to the conflict.

[Find out more](#) about how you can act today, and [pray for peace](#) with justice for the people of Palestine and Israel.

[Image credit: Al Jedeh /DSPR]

General Council 44: Church Adopts Social Justice Principles and Addresses Designated Lay Ministry



The annual recall meeting of the 44th General Council met virtually on October 21, 2023. It included greetings from the [Partner Council](#) and recognition of [John Egger](#) as the last long-term overseas ministry personnel.

Small group discussions in breakout rooms provided opportunities to discuss the proposals before the General Council, specifically the Principles-based justice framework and the Leadership in the 2020s proposal related to Designated Lay Ministers.

Read more at GeneralCouncil44.ca.

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