



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, October 8, 2023

Thanksgiving Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary
Reader: Brenda Gruetzner



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

"We learned about gratitude and humility - that so many people had a hand in our success, from the teachers who inspired us to the janitors who kept our school clean... and we were taught to value everyone's contribution and treat everyone with respect."
— Michelle Obama

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship:

ONE: We come rejoicing in God's creation.

ALL: God is good.

The fruit-laden trees proclaim the wonder of God.

ONE: We come rejoicing in God's creation.

ALL: God is good.

The autumn rain declares the nurture of God.

ONE: We come rejoicing in God's creation.

ALL: God is good.

The mountains and hills reflect our awesome God.

ONE: We come rejoicing in God's creation.

ALL: God is good.

The gathered crops make evident our caring God.

ONE: Let us celebrate the goodness of God!

Written by: David Sparks, 2023. GatheringWorship.ca.

Opening Hymn: VU #242 Let All Things Now Living
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

Generous, loving, compassionate Creator,
we come to you today with gratitude
for your steadfast presence and
your world full of wonder and diversity.

As the green abundance of summer prairie
transforms into the glorious golds of fall,
nature seems to join us in singing your praise.
On this Thanksgiving Sunday,
may we be filled with awe
at the fullness of your creation.

Adapted from Susan Silverthorne, 2022. GatheringWorship.ca.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #227 *For the Fruit of All Creation* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #227 *For the Fruit of All Creation* (verse 3)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Luke 17:11-19

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: *Humble Gratitude*

Choral Offering: VU #232 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Geeta'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 #236 *Now Thank We All Our God*
(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

*“Thank you’ is the best prayer that anyone could say.
I say that one a lot.
Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility, understanding.”
– Alice Walker*

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Church of the Open Bible

Living Skies Regional Council

Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry

Radville (Ceylon, Minton-Gladmar, Radville)

Shell Lake Partners in Worship

Lectionary Readings for October 15, 2023

Exodus 32:1-14

Isaiah 25:1-9

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

Worship Schedule

Oct 15	<i>What's in a Translation?</i>	- Eva Stanley
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

Giving Thanks—and Working to Do Better



This Thanksgiving, [we give thanks for a church that is humble and willing to change](#).

The United Church of Canada has committed to becoming an anti-racist church. [Your gifts](#) through Mission and Service and The United Church of Canada Foundation help us work towards this commitment.

As we give thanks,
we must also reflect on what we can do better.
Will you join us and [make a gift](#) today to contribute to dismantling racism in our church?

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism Live Event



[40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](#)

begins on Tuesday, October 10,
including the first live event:
The Dual Function of Genealogy and Family Lore in Cases of Race Shifting, at 7:00 p.m. ET.

In this presentation, Dr. Leroux will explain the growing number of false claims to Indigenous identity in Canada. This will be a bilingual event, with English-French interpretation. Sign up on [CHURCHx](#).

Follow along for all things [40 Days of Engagement of Anti-Racism](#)!

This year we are bringing you brand-new written content, a new line-up of speakers with [online live events](#), and the [NEW study group sessions](#)! For all the latest updates [sign up for the newsletter](#).

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]
