



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Twenty-fourth after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

Reader: Karen Messer



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*“We wait for God, creation longs
to see a new day dawn.
And though the night is dark and deep,
we dare to sing our song.”
— William S. Kervin*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #7 *Gather Us In*
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: Come in from the cold
after being teased
by a taste of winter this week.

**ALL: We come into the warmth and
into the shelter of this space.**

ONE: Come in from the anxieties and challenges
of our ever-changing world.

**ALL: We come hoping
for the comfort of grace abounding.**

ONE: Come in as those sent by Christ
to transform the world with good news.

**ALL: We come to recharge, to renew, and
to re-engage with the Spirit's power.**

ONE: Come let us open our hearts to God!

Adapted from: Gord Dunbar, *Gathering Pentecost 2* 2023, page 32.

Opening Hymn: MV #20 *God of Still Waiting*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

**Holy Mystery,
Ground of our Being,
our spirits cry out to you.
The sacred fire that burns inside each of us
was placed there by you.
We long for you to stoke the coals and
to increase that fire.
We long for your presence
because with you
we know we are not alone.**

Amen.

Adapted from: Mikayla-Aimee, *Gathering* Pentecost 2 2023, page 33.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: *Give Me Oil* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: *Give Me Oil* (verses 3 & 4)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

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: *Oil for our Lamps*

Choral Offering: *We wait for God*
– Words by William S. Kervin, Music by Deborah Park and Tom Reynolds

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Compassion into Action*

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: MV #142 *Oh a Song Must Rise*
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

First United Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Spy Hill, Strasbourg

Star City, Swift Current: First

Tantallon

Lectionary Readings for November 19, 2023

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123 (VU p. 847)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Worship Schedule

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

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

Dec 3 *Advent One – Hope* - Rev. Annette Taylor
(with communion)

Dec 10 *Advent Two – Peace* - Rev. Annette Taylor

A Prayer for People of Courage



We offer to you, O God, our prayers for those who seek justice and resist evil. We pray for those who need your presence and strength to stand firm; for those who oppose the use of violence in any form in faithful response to the Prince of Peace. We pray for those who are prepared to be firm to protect those in danger. We pray for those who walk with others who need strength. We pray for those who protest, those who organize letter campaigns, those who give sacrificially on behalf of others.

We pray for those who speak the unpopular truth; who protect the unpopular victims; who choose the unpopular path of peace.

We pray for those who do not let their desire for peace hinder the requirements of justice, and for those who do not let their zeal for justice override the call for peace.

—from "On This Day of Remembrance," prayers for [Remembrance Sunday](#) by the Rev. Dr. Neil Parker, military chaplain at the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre in Meaford, ON

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Partner Council Visits Communities of Faith



The United Church of Canada 2023 Partner Council visited faith communities in the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council and Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council from October 20 to 26, 2023.

They visited emerging and established faith communities, met with lay leaders and regional council members, and got to experience first-hand how faith communities are living into the church's Call to Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice.

A message from the Partner Council to the United Church will go to the November 2023 General Council Executive meeting, sharing reflections and observations on "what is and what could be" as the church moves forward in living out its Call and Vision.

Read the [full news story](#).

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]