



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Remembrance/Peace Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

Readers: Charles Lotochinski



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."* — Laurence Binyan

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #7 *Gather Us In*

(please remain seated)

Call to Worship:

ONE: We wake to a world of
beauty and catastrophe,

ALL: **a world of
vision and violence,
compassion and cowardice.**

ONE: We live in such a wounded world—

ALL: **beyond the grief of
natural disasters,
we face the devastation of
human violence.**

ONE: How do we
give prayerful expression
to our grief?

Written by: Juanita Austin, *Gathering Pentecost 2* 2023, page 48.

Opening Hymn: VU #806 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (verses 1, 2, 5 & 6)

(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

O God, our help in ages past,
in this time of war and violence
how do we express our grief
while holding your hope in our hearts?

As we worship this day,
may we know the comfort of your presence
and the peace of your transforming grace,
Amen.

Written by Annette Taylor with inspiration from Psalm 90.

The Lord's Prayer

Last Post-Silence-Reveille



WORD

Hymn: MV #149 *Peace for the Children* (children/families/nations)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #149 *Peace for the Children* (planet/soul)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 23:1-12

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: *Leaders for Peace*

Choral Offering: *Creation, like a prism*

– Words by Delores Dufner, Music by Deborah Park and Tom Reynolds

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Empowering Women of the Past, Present, and Future*

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 #702 *When a Poor One***
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

Faith Evangelical Missionary Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Spirit of Hope (Foote-Copeland, Wynyard)

Speers

Spiritwood Partners in Faith

Lectionary Readings for November 12, 2023

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7 (VU p. 792 Part One)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Worship Schedule

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

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



Take Action!

Your help is urgently needed to support the people impacted by the conflict in Palestine and Israel.

Here are three ways you can respond:

Advocate

Join with [KAIROS Canada and member churches and agencies](#) by calling on the Canadian government to respond to the escalating violence in Palestine and Israel by:

- **calling for an immediate ceasefire** and an end to the violence
- ensuring humanitarian assistance is provided and a safe corridor for aid is opened
- ensuring civilians are protected
- calling for the safe and immediate return of all hostages and civilians being held in detention without charge

[Use our online letter writing template to send an email](#) directly to Foreign Affairs Minister, The Hon. Mélanie Joly, and your local MP. Please send your email today! The United Church of Canada has also signed on to [a number of statements](#) from our partners and other organizations calling for a ceasefire to the conflict.

Donate

Mission and Service partners are currently responding to those who are impacted by the conflict in 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. Please donate today!

- Online via our [secure donation page](#).
- Phone toll-free 1-800-465-3771 and use your Visa or MasterCard.
- Send a [cheque or money order](#).

Pray

Finally, please [pray for peace](#) with justice for the people of Palestine and Israel. As people of faith, we bring the grief, compassion, and concerns of a hurting world to God. Additional prayers can be [found here](#) and on the [Canadian Council of Churches](#) website.

Thank you for your support. Follow the latest updates on [our website](#) and on [social media](#) about how the United Church and our partners are responding to the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East.

[Image credit: Al Jedeh /DSPR]