



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, June 2, 2024

### Pride Sunday

Leading Worship: Affirming Ministry Group  
Music Director: James McLauchlan  
Pianist: Mary Anderson



## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*"I love that I am trans. And I love that I am queer.  
And the more I hold myself close and fully embrace who I am,  
the more I dream, the more my heart grows and the more I thrive."  
— Elliot Page*

### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

**Gathering Hymn: VU #376 *Spirit of the Living God***  
(please remain seated)

### Call to Worship

ONE: We are an amazing, talented, fabulous,  
diverse group of people!

**ALL: Together, we bring many skills and gifts.**

ONE: We are one body in Christ,  
beloved and blessed.

**ALL: God has made each one of us unique and special,  
empowering us to enhance the world  
with our presence.**

ONE: Let us offer our unique gifts  
to God's ministry of love.

**ALL: Let us celebrate the presence  
of the Sacred in our midst!**

Adapted from: Laura J. Turnbull

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/we-are-amazing-talented-fabulous-diverse-group-people>

**Opening Hymn: MV #30 *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker***  
(please stand as you are able)

### Opening Prayer

**Creator God,  
we marvel in awe of the expansiveness of your creation.**

**Your margins of diversity are boundless,  
and for that, we thank you.  
Each of our beloved Two-Spirit, LGBTQIA+, brown, and black siblings  
are beautifully and wonderfully made, all in Your image.  
Teach us to love people as they are,  
and embrace their identity fully,  
just as you embrace us all.**

Adapted from <https://ministrylink.org/pride-2020/>

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **WORD**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 139 (VU page 861 with refrain)

**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.**

**Hymn:** MV #145 *Draw the Circle Wide*

(please stand as you are able)

**The Moderator's Pride Message (video)**

**Panel Discussion:** *The Reality of Bill 137 "The Pronoun Law"*

**Choral Offering:** *Belonging*

– Christopher New

### **RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission:** *Learning About God's Love - Young 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals  
explore and reconcile their faith with their identity.*

**Offering Invitation**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**With open hearts and open spirits,  
we come to you,  
O Ground of our Being.**

**With all that we have and  
all that we are,  
we share our gifts.**

**May your Spirit  
fill our words,  
fill our actions,  
fill our lives.**

**Amen.**

Adapted from: Richard Bott

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/open-hearts-and-open-spirits-we-come-you-god-most-holy>

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn:** MV #138 *My Love Colours Outside the Lines*  
(please stand as you are able)

## **Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing:** VU #649 *Walk with Me (refrain X2)*

## **Postlude**

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## **Recent Events**

Saturday, June 1 – Ruth Martens Memorial Service at Riverside Estates

## **Worship Schedule**

Jun 9	<i>99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The UCC</i>	- Leadership Team
Jun 16	<i>Choir Sunday</i>	- First U.C. Choir
Jun 23	<i>Eve – The First Woman</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jun 30	no service on the long weekend	

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## **Prayer Cycles**

### Ministerial

Salvation Army

### Living Skies Regional Council

Elbow - Loreburn

Lemberg, Abernethy

Lumsden: St. Andrew's

## **The Moderator's 2024 Pride Message**



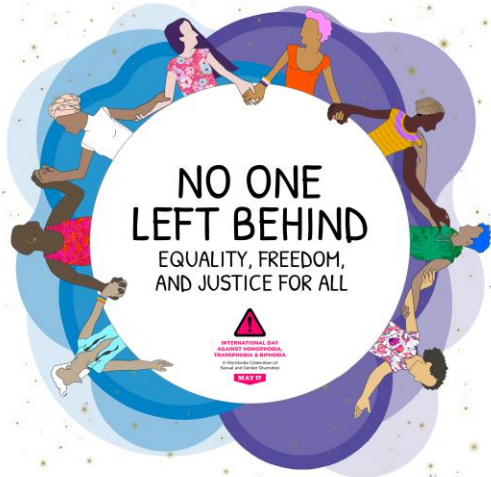
In her [message for Pride 2024](#), the Moderator calls for our celebrations to be more than just joyful events, urging us to see them as prophetic acts of resistance, and to fiercely celebrate the diversity that God created.

Across the globe—but also here at home—homophobia and transphobia are on the rise. 2SLGBTQIA+ people and communities are feeling and experiencing heightened risk. Thank you for showing your colours this Pride, in celebration and resistance.

May we be deep, bold, and daring in our rainbow witness everywhere.  
[Watch and share](#) the Moderator's 2024 Pride message. Happy Pride!

[Video still: The United Church of Canada]

# No One Left Behind!



[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

May 17 was [International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia \(IDAHOBIT\)](#). The 2024 theme, "No One Left Behind," highlighted the ongoing fight for global 2SLGBTQIA+ rights. Despite progress, many 2SLGBTQIA+ people still face discrimination and violence, and Canada continues to see a rise in anti-trans policies and hate crimes.

The United Church of Canada is committed to fighting for equality.

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## Join the Online Interfaith Pride Service: June 6



[Image credit: Queer Interfaith Coalition]

Join the Queer Interfaith Coalition for their first annual Interfaith Pride Service. Led by and for queer people of all faith traditions, you are welcome to come and be affirmed, celebrated, and cheered on.

Online: Thursday, June 6, at 4:00 p.m. PT / 8:00 p.m. AT / 7:00 p.m. ET.

Find out more and [register](#).