



FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Swift Current, SK
Sunday, May 19, 2024



Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLaughlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary
Reader: Pat Palmer

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*The Holy Spirit transforms and renews us,
creates harmony and unity,
and gives us courage and joy for mission.*
—Pope Francis

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship

ONE: The Spirit is at work
in our faith community,
**ALL: bringing us together in joy,
comforting us in sorrow.**

ONE: The Spirit is discovered
in our faith community,
**ALL: helping those bereaved,
listening to those who are troubled.**

ONE: The Spirit is with any who are downhearted
in our faith community,
**ALL: the voice of hope,
the unseen good deed.**

ONE: The Spirit will not be overcome,
because in our faith community,
**ALL: the Spirit is inspiring,
the Spirit is eternal.**

ONE: Come, let us celebrate the presence
of the Spirit of God.

Adapted from: David Sparks

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/spirit-work-our-faith-community>

Opening Hymn: VU #202 *O Breath of life*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

**God of wind and fire,
come and be with us.**

**Energize us
with power and jubilation.**

**Open our minds
that we might share
messages of inclusion.**

**Open our hearts
that we might receive
your call to action.**

**Open our souls
that we may be filled
with your Spirit.**

Adapted from Laura J. Turnbull

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/god-wind-and-fire-come-and-be-us>

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #388 *Spirit Dancing* (verses 1, 2, & 3)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #388 *Spirit Dancing* (verses 4, 5 & 6)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21
Romans 8:22-27 (The Inclusive Bible)

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: *Too Deep for Words*

Choral Offering: *Spirit Boundless*
– Composed by Betty Ann Ramseth,
Music by Johann Schop,

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Connecting for Global Peace and Security*

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 (text: 306-750-8925)

Closing Hymn: MV #150 *Spirit God, Be Our Breath*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Worship Schedule

May 26	<i>Children's Sunday</i>	- Sunday School (at Kinsmen Park with potluck lunch)
Jun 2	<i>Pride Sunday</i>	- Affirming Ministry Group
Jun 9	<i>99th Anniversary of The UCC</i>	- Leadership Team
Jun 16	<i>Choir Sunday</i>	- First U.C. Choir

Recent Events

Friday, May 17 – Zan Robertson Graveside Service at Memory Gardens

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Regina: Lakeview

Landis

Langham: Knox

The United Church of Canada Statement on the Israeli Military Assault on Rafah



The United Church of Canada condemns the Israeli military assault on Rafah, which constitutes a grave breach of the Genocide Convention. Rafah has been considered one of the only “safe zones” in Gaza. The humanitarian situation there is dire: famine is a current reality, the death toll rises, people are unable to access basic necessities for life.

For months, humanitarian agencies have sounded the alarm against any military offensive in this extremely densely populated refugee camp, where thousands who have been displaced multiple times are forced to seek shelter. “There is nowhere to go,” says the International Committee of the Red Cross. United Church partners also clearly state that people in Rafah cannot flee to safety from further hostilities.

This assault on Rafah causes irreparable harm to the right of an estimated 1.4 million Palestinians to be protected from acts of genocide under Articles II and III of the Genocide Convention. As a party to the Genocide Convention, Canada must abide by its obligations and take every diplomatic, political, and economic step available to prevent the crime of genocide unfolding in Gaza. Canada must hold Israel and Hamas accountable for crimes against humanity.

Find out ways [you can take action, pray, and advocate](#) for lasting peace and justice in Palestine and Israel.

[Photo credit: Joshua Sukoff on Unsplash]

Anglicans, Presbyterians, and United Church to Share National Office Space in Toronto



It’s official! The United, Anglican, and Presbyterian churches have signed leases to share national office space at the redeveloped site of Bloor Street United Church at 300 Bloor St. West. in Toronto.

The agreement reflects the churches’ ongoing commitment to nurturing ecumenical relationships and cooperation, to reducing costs, and to lessening their carbon footprint.

Read the full [news story](#).

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]