



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, June 23, 2024

### Women of the Hebrew Scriptures Part One - Eve



Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLaughlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*"All mankind is forever blessed because of Eve's great courage and wisdom.  
By partaking of the fruit first, she did what needed to be done."*

— Russell M. Nelson

### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

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

### Call to Worship

In the songs of birds  
and the warmth of sunshine,  
**we welcome the presence of God.**

In fields of grain, growing gardens,  
and flowers blooming,  
**we welcome the presence of God.**

In the wave of a neighbour  
and the phone call of a friend,  
**we welcome the presence of God.**

In the bustle of the day  
and the quiet of the evening,  
**we welcome the presence of God.**

In the work we do  
and the games we play,  
**we welcome the presence of God.**

In the lessons we've learned  
and the opportunities to come,  
**we welcome the presence of God.**

In the memories we hold  
and the love we have known,  
**we give thanks for the presence of God.**

Come, let us celebrate the presence of God.

Written by: Carrie Schmidt, Gaie Goin, Susan Silverthorne and Ruth Lumax (Wetaskiwin Writers  
<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/songs-birds-and-warmth-sunshine-we-welcome-presence-god>)

**Opening Hymn: VU #299 *Teach Me, God to Wonder***  
(please stand as you are able)

**Opening Prayer**

**Loving God, Creator, and keeper of all life,  
we praise you this day.**

**You, our maker, nourish us  
with beauty and  
ancient words of wisdom.**

**We are born from you, and  
in you we live and move and grow  
as your community of faith.**

**Deepen our appreciation  
for your wonder and mystery  
rooted in our veins as lifeblood,  
as spirit song, as the ground of our being.**

**As a child is formed in their mother's womb,  
we are formed in you,  
each one of us being made into your body,  
your church, your blessing for the world.**

**For this we give you thanks, today and every day.**

**Amen.**

Adapted from Wendy MacLean, 2022.

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/creator-and-keeper-all-life-we-praise-you-day>

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn: MV #37 *Each Blade of Grass***  
(please remain seated)

**WORD**

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:15–3:23 (The Inclusive Bible)**

**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: *Eve – The First Woman***

**Choral Offering: *Find us Faithful***

- Words and music by John Mohr

- Sung by Jacqueline Orola Ravino, Jennifer Orola Demesa, Ruth Orola  
& Harold Lapuz

**RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: *An Act of Generosity***

**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 #163 *River Running in You and Me***  
(please stand as you are able)

## **Commissioning & Benediction**

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

## **Postlude**

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## **Worship Schedule**

*Summer Series – Women of the Hebrew Scriptures*

Jun 30	no service on the long weekend	
Jul 7	<i>7<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost</i>	- Norma Hain
Jul 14	<i>Hagar – Seeing the Sacred</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jul 22	<i>Moses' Saviours</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
	(with communion)	

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## **Recent Events**

Friday, June 21 – Vaughn Minogue Memorial Service at First United Church

## **Prayer Cycles**

### Ministerial

Zion Mennonite Church

### Living Skies Regional Council

Neilburg

Mamont

Moose Jaw: Minto

## **Lectionary Readings for July 7, 2024**

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10  
Psalm 48 (VU pp.772-773)  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

## The Moderator's National Indigenous Peoples Day Message 2024



National Indigenous Peoples Day is on June 21, and June is National Indigenous Peoples Month in Canada. It is a time to recognize Indigenous Peoples, languages, contributions, and cultures that have been here since time immemorial.

In her [National Indigenous Peoples Day message](#), Moderator Carmen Lansdowne reminds us that we can all take specific actions to celebrate or recognize this day and National Indigenous Peoples Month.

To the Indigenous Church, and especially our elders, *Walis Gayasixa* (thank you) for the ways that you have fought, sometimes against all hope, for recognition and respect in The United Church of Canada. [Read the full news story](#) and [watch the video](#).

[Video still credit: The United Church of Canada]

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## Support the 2024 Northern Pastors Retreat – Give Healing and Respite



Imagine facing seven funerals in a month—all young people lost to suicide. This is the reality for ministers like [Olive Flett](#), [Lawrence Moore](#), and [Grant Queskekapow](#). In just one community, Norway House Cree Nation (Kinosao Sipi), with a population of 10,000, the emergency is very real. These dedicated individuals are the only lifeline for countless grieving families. These ministers are stretched beyond capacity, and they desperately need our support.

Here's how you can help:

- [Donate today](#) to support their vital work and bring hope back to these communities.
- [Help create a safe haven for healing](#). The United Church's Indigenous Ministries and Justice unit is seeking to raise funds for a retreat in October. This retreat, held at the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, will offer 12 ministers from the most impacted communities in Northern Manitoba and Ontario three days of:
  - **Respite** from the relentless crisis.
  - **Training** to better equip them to support their communities.
  - **Spiritual healing** for themselves.

Bringing ministers together is crucial, but expensive. [Your gift](#) will be doubled by a matching grant from the Healing Fund.

[Image credit: Canva]