



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, July 14, 2024

Women of the Hebrew Scriptures Part Two - Hagar

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reader: Fran Jackson



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"Let them thank YHWH for this great love,
for the marvels done for all people—
for God satisfied the thirsty
and filled the hungry with good things."
(Psalm 107:8-9)*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #21 *Open Our Hearts*

— written Jim Strathdee & sung by Jean Strathdee
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: We look at the prairies around us;
we are awestruck at the splendour of the rivers and lakes,
captivated by the endless, starry skies.

**ALL: and joy fills our hearts
for all God has given us.**

ONE: We remember the support and encouragement
of family and friends in the journey of life,

**ALL: and thanksgiving overflows
for all God has given us.**

ONE: We think back to the inspiration
that has been ours in church:
the down-to-earth leaders,
the soaring song and music,

**ALL: and our worship resounds with praise
for all God has given us.**

ONE: We consider the future with all its joys,
its uncertainties and its challenges,

**ALL: and we rest secure in the loving presence
that God will always give us.**

ONE: We come to celebrate the presence of God!

Adapted from: David Sparks

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/we-look-hills-around-us-we-are-awestruck>

Opening Hymn: VU #409 *Morning Has Broken*
– sung by Jim & Jean Strathdee
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

Loving, Gracious, and Surprising Spirit
gather us together.
Unify our hearts, minds, and spirits.
Send us reminders of your presence
so that we never forget to notice.
Come to us in a friendly voice
that we will recognize.
Sing us songs that we know well
and others for which the melody is catchy and new.
Open our spirits as we journey the well-trodden paths
so that we may discover you again
as if for the first time.
Your love gathers us together,
helps relieve us in our grief,
our guilt, our loneliness.
Help us to navigate the way forward
and to listen for your call.
Make this day and this gathering
a new beginning for us.

Amen.

Written by Éric Hébert-Daly

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/loving-gracious-and-surprising-spirit-gather-us-together>

Prayer of Jesus – paraphrase by Jim Cotter VU p. 916

WORD

Hymn: VU #365 *Jesus Loves Me*
– sung by the children's choir at First United Church, Kelowna, BC
(please remain seated and join in the chorus)

Scripture Readings: Genesis 16:1-16; 21:1-21 (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: *Hagar*

Hymn: *The Spirit in Me Greet the Spirit in You*
– composed and sung by Jim Strathdee
(please stand as you are able)

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Climate Justice through Cultural Movement*

Prayer of Dedication

Living, loving God,
who models what love looks like,
may you bless all that we give
for your purpose in the world.
In your blessing,
may we become the model of what love is:
self-giving and self-sacrificing
as we share with friends,
with neighbours, with strangers and
especially with those we name as enemies.

Amen

Written by: Gord Dunbar, *Gathering Pentecost 2*, 2014, page 41.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #664 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

- sung by Linnea Good with David Jonsson
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: MV #156 *Dance with the Spirit*

– composed & sung by Jim & Jean Strathdee

Postlude

Worship Schedule

Summer Series – Women of the Hebrew Scriptures

| | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jul 21 | <i>Moses' Saviours</i> | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| | (with communion) | |
| Jul 28 | <i>The Daughters of Zelophehad</i> | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| Aug 4 | no service on long weekend | |
| Aug 11 | 12 th After Pentecost | - Rev. Ray Friesen |

Recent Events

Friday, July 13 – Brian Warder Memorial Service at First United Chapel

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Bridgeway Community Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Moosomin

Northern Lakes (Loon Lake, Paradise Hill, St. Walburg)

Saskatoon: Mount Royal-Emmanuel

Norquay, North Battleford: Third Ave.

Readings for July 21, 2024

Exodus 1:8-2:10

That's a Wrap for Rendez-vous 2024: Audacious Hope!



Audacious Hope, the national youth and young adult event, brought together over 450 energetic young people and passionate youth leaders from July 3-6, 2024 for an unforgettable experience at Brock University in St. Catharines, ON. With the combined efforts of The United Church of Canada Rendez-vous team and the Presbyterian Church in Canada's Uplift team, this landmark event marked the first-ever collaborative youth event by the two denominations.

Each day included inspiring and vibrant worship led by the incredible Adele Halliday and Mitchell Anderson. Attendees were captivated by a lineup of phenomenal speakers and workshop leaders, including the Moderator, The Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne.

[This compilation from Audacious Hope](#) celebrates the rejuvenated spirit and boundless optimism these young people bring to the church. With such audacious hope, nothing can hold us back! Watch all of the Audacious Hope videos and more on our [YouTube channel](#).

World Council of Churches Commission on World Mission and Evangelism Meeting in Kenya



General Secretary Michael Blair is taking part in the World Council of Churches Commission on World Mission and Evangelism meeting in Kenya.

As moderator of the Commission, the Rev. Michael Blair reflected on the importance of grounding the work of the Commission in the life and reality of member churches. "This is an essential aspect of co-creating in partnership with God in God's yearning to mend and heal the world," he said. "Working in partnership means that we will not need to do everything or initiate everything on our agenda, but we can connect, convene, and curate."

Find out more on the [World Council of Churches website](#).