



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Pistang Bukid – Rural Life (Asian Heritage Month)

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organ: Patti McCleary

Reader: Pat Palmer



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap
but by the seeds that you plant.*

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #412 *This Is the Day* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Pistang Bukid Presentation - Jackie Orola Ravino

Call to Worship

ONE: Today, throughout the world,
Christians are called to worship.

**ALL: They may be called by the carillon
of the chimes in a large city.**

ONE: They may be called by a meadowlark,
singing in a prairie pasture

**ALL: They may be called by the festive sounds
of a Pistahan Parade.**

ONE: They may be called by a sunrise or sunset
over an expanse of water.

**ALL: They may be called by the towering majesty
of a mountain.**

ONE: Wherever and however,
people throughout the world
are called to a place and an attitude of worship.

**ALL: Let us join them in celebrating
the presence and the providence of God.**

Adapted from: Mary Grant, Forest Hill U.C., Fredericton, N.B.

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/today-throughout-world-christians-people-are-called-worship>

Opening Hymn: VU #520 *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer - led by Zoe Orola

God of seeds and soil,
our time is in your hands.
Till our lives and
soften our hearts.
Sift the stony places of our souls
making space for growth.
Pour out your Spirit upon us
in this time of worship.
That we may be inspired
to care for each other and
for your creation.

Adapted from: Wetaskiwin Writers, Grace Lutheran Church and First U.C., Wetaskiwin, Alta.
<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/god-seeds-and-soil-our-time-your-hands>

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #300 *God, Whose Farm is All Creation* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #300 *God, Whose Farm is All Creation* (verse 3)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 148 (VU p. 871 with refrain)
Mark 4:1-9

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: *Pistang Bukid*

Choral Offering: *Kundiman ng Langit (A Lovesong from Heaven)*
- sung by Harold Lapuz
words and music by Augusto Espino

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Stories of The United Church of Canada*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication
Holy Mystery,
you transform lives:

the hungry are fed;
the lonely are befriended; and
the broken are restored to wholeness.

May these gifts

be part of the transformation.

We offer them with humility and hope. Amen.

Adapted from: Laura J. Turnbull, 2019

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/blessed-healer-you-transform-lives>

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #307 *Touch the Earth Lightly*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #958 *Halle, Halle, Halle*

Postlude

Worship Schedule

May 25	<i>Children's Sunday/Camping Sunday</i> - Sunday School (at Kinsmen Park with potluck lunch)
June 1	<i>Affirming Ministry Sunday</i> - Affirming Ministry Group
June 8	100 th Anniversary of The UCC - Rev. Annette Taylor (with communion)
June 15	<i>Spirit of Truth</i> - Rev. Annette Taylor

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland

Living Skies Regional Council

Saskatoon: McClure

Meadow Lake

Moose Jaw: Minto

Lectionary Readings for May 25, 2025

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67 (VU p. 786)

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Inviting Conversation Toward 2035



Deep Bold Daring Toward 2035

The United Church of Canada has unveiled an inspiring new initiative, "Toward 2035," as part of its centennial celebrations. This forward-looking vision aims to honour the legacy of past generations while charting a bold path for the future.

In an open letter, Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, emphasized the importance of this moment for reflection and imagination. Approved by the General Council Executive, the initiative began with

data-informed discussions among church leaders in late 2024.

[Read the full news story and the open letter from Rev. Michael Blair.](#)

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

Be Part of History: Centennial Worship Service Livestream Event



Have you got a case of FOMO about the national Centennial worship service? Fear of missing out? Don't!

At First United Church we are organizing a watch party of this special national Centennial worship service.

On **Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. CST**, the in-person service will be held at Gower Street United Church, 99 Queens Rd, St. John's, NL.

We will be tuning into the livestream, and gathering those who want to be part of this moment in our history. Come to the church and be a part of the celebration!

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]