



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, May 24, 2026

Worship in the Park/ Camping Sunday

Leading Worship: The Sunday School

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Readers: Several



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

Camping is one of the largest youth ministries in the United Church.

Camps do everything from building campers' confidence to growing leaders in our church.

Each summer at United Church camps, over 20000 children, youth and young adults come together to create relationship in community; relationships with one another, with creation and with God.

We invite you to participate in this Camping Sunday service as a time to reflect and renew your call to ministry in the rich traditions that feed you, as well as in new and exciting ways that inspire.

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Call to Worship

Split the congregation into two parts.

ONE: At some camps, a bell rings to signal the beginning.

Let's begin Camping Sunday the same way. *(bell rings)*

1st Group: The bell is ringing.

2nd Group: We gather for instruction.

1st Group: Let's go to the warmth of the campfire.

2nd Group: Can we bring smores?

1st Group: Of course!

We will all share the warmth of God's love!

2nd Group: Let's get started!

Hymn: "Fire's burning" in a round *(sung 3x – public domain)*

Fire's burning, fire's burning

Draw nearer, draw nearer!

In the glowing, in the glowing,

Come sing and be merry!

Opening Prayer: Prayer in Four Directions

Determine which direction east, south, west, and north are, and face these directions as they come up in prayer.

ALL: Each new day we give thanks to the circle of life.

ONE: *(face the east)* From the east, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

ALL: We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

ONE: *(face the south)* From the south comes warmth, guidance, and the beginning and the end of life.

ALL: We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

ONE: (*face the west*) From the west comes the rains, purifying waters to sustain all living things.

ALL: We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

ONE: (*face the north*) From the north comes the cold and mighty winds, white snows giving us strength and endurance.

ALL: We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

ONE: (*look downwards*) From the earth we come and to the earth we shall return.

ALL: We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

ONE: (*look upwards*) From the heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of our breath, and messages from our winged creatures.

ALL: We give thanks for your creation, oh God!

Prayer of Approach

ONE: Creator God, the spark has kindled a fire.

ALL: We gather for its warmth and light.

ONE: Your love is the warmth that fills our hearts.

ALL: Your love lights the way.

ONE: First, we experience the warmth and light of your love,

ALL: And then we pass it on.

ONE: Pass it on.

Passing of the Peace

Shake hands or pass the peace to those around you.

“Peace Be with You” (and the other person says...” **And also with you”**)

Prayer of Confession

Dear God,

we love your creation,

yet sometimes refuse to care enough for it.

We love our neighbours as you have taught us,

yet sometimes we hurt them or refuse to allow our differences to transform us.

Your love for us surrounds us in every way,

yet sometimes we fail to acknowledge it.

Out of your timeless greatness, dear God,

please keep loving and forgiving us.

Guide us to do, say, and think according to your will.

Guide us to live in respectful relationship with creation.

And when there are temptations or other examples to follow that lead us away from you,

we ask that you set us right, yet again.

Our trust in you is complete.

Amen.

Assurance of God’s Blessing

Sung Response: VU #289 *It Only Takes a Spark*

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,

and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:

that's how it is with God's love,

once you've experienced it:

you spread God's love to everyone,

you want to pass it on.

*What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees
are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.*

*I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found -
on God you can depend, it matters not where
you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.*

Scripture Reading: John 12:7-10
(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: *I am Camp*

Camp Counsellor's Manifesto 2

by Joe Richards

A Shining

by Jim Taylor

Minute for Mission: *Work of Water*

Invitation to Offering/Service

Offertory Prayer

Loving God,

**accept the gifts of our time, talent, and tithes for the work of your church,
in this community and beyond.**

**We share what we have so that the warmth and light of your love will spread to everyone,
and we shout from the mountaintops: *pass it on.***

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine* (Source: African American, public domain)

This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Hide it under a bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine.

*Hide it under a bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

Commissioning

Sung Benediction: VU #964 Go Now In Peace

*Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you everywhere,
everywhere you may go.*

Written by David Root and Nancy Rouble

Worship Schedule

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|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| May 31 | <i>Trinity Sunday</i> | - Rev. Kelly Osgood |
| June 7 | <i>Second After Pentecost</i> | - Rev. Kelly Osgood |
| June 14 | <i>Third After Pentecost</i> | - Rev. Kelly Osgood |
| June 21 | <i>Fourth after Pentecost</i> | - Rev. Kelly Osgood |

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Saskatoon: Mount Royal-Emmanual

Plenty, Dodsland

Prairie Points (Creelman)

Honouring Asian Heritage Month in May



[Image credit: Unsplash / Hartono Creative Studio]

[May marks Asian Heritage Month](#)—a time to honour the breadth and diversity of Asian-descendant communities in Canada, including ones within The United Church of Canada. Communities of faith are invited to uplift diverse Asian voices through worship, music, food, and prayer, and to explore available Asian Heritage Month resources on the United Church website. Several videos from the [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism series](#) also highlight Asian voices within the church and can be shared in worship or newsletters. Communities of faith are additionally invited to reflect and challenge anti-Asian racism wherever it is found.

This year, leaders of Asian ethnocultural networks are focusing on honouring heritage within their own communities throughout the year—such as Chinese, Filipino, and Korean Heritage Months—rather than creating new national resources. They encourage communities to move beyond performative gestures, to listen to diverse Asian voices, challenge anti-Asian racism, and recognize the rich diversity of cultures, languages, and experiences across Asian communities.

[Read the full news story](#)

May is PAR Month!



[Video credit: The United Church of Canada]

[Giving Monthly Through PAR VIDEO](#)

Looking for ways to inspire, invite, and thank people in your community? [PAR \(Pre-Authorized Remittance\) Month](#) is an opportunity to encourage consistent monthly giving—and to invite those already participating to consider increasing their support.

All the resources you need are now available in one convenient file on the United Church PAR webpage. Find sample letters, social media content, a sermon, and a planning template to help you get started.

[Learn more about Pre-Authorized Remittance](#)