



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Eleventh After Pentecost

Leading Worship: Ray Friesen

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Reader: Donna Saunders



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*Though the cherry trees don't blossom
and the strawberries don't ripen,
Though the apples are worm-eaten
and the wheat fields stunted,
Though the sheep pens are sheepless
and the cattle barns empty,
I'm singing joyful praise to GOD.
I'm turning cartwheels of joy to my Savior God.
Habakkuk 3:17-18; The Message*

Greeting and Welcome

Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #395 *Come In, Come In and Sit Down*

(please remain seated)

- Composed by James K. Manley, sung by Jim and Jean Strathdee

Call to Worship

ONE: God, You spoke the Universe into existence.
You planted a garden on Planet Earth.
You crafted a clay doll, blew into it your breath of life and called it Person.

**ALL: We are here to praise and worship you.
May many people join us in that praise.**

ONE: You demonstrated your saving power at the Red Sea.
You proclaimed your unconditional love in Jesus on the cross.
Your Presence, Love and Caring are with us always.

**ALL: We are here to praise and worship you.
May many people join us in that praise.**

ONE: For all your gifts we are thankful.
Bountiful food supply, wonderful community, pretty decent health care,
and a country bumbling and stumbling toward freedom for all.

**ALL: We are here to praise and worship you.
May many people join us in that praise.**

Opening Hymn: VU p.806 Psalm 90 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

(please stand as you are able)

- Sung by friends at First United Church Kelowna, BC
Solo: John Hopkinson

(Come and light candles in remembrance of family and friends as we sing)

Opening Prayer

Creator and Keeper of All that Is,

Source of Love and Healing,

in this hour of worship may your presence seem ever more real.

May our Understanding of your Will and Word increase.

May our courage to embrace life grow strong.

May we realize again our companionship with each other is rooted in you and given Life by your Spirit.

We are never alone for we have You and we have each other.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #382 *Breath on Me, Breath of God*

(please remain seated)

- Bruce and Cheryl Harding with the musicians of Crossroads United Church, Delta BC.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:16-22

(NLT Version)

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: *Freedom 55*

Hymn: VU #401 *Worship the Lord*

- Words: Fred Kaan. Music: Ron Klusmeier.
The "Sunday at Three" Singers led by Ron Klusmeier and Lonnie Moddle

Minute for Mission: *Breaking the Silence*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

From what we have worked for and what we have saved, we have given to you.

We gave because we are thankful for what you have given us,

we gave because we trust in you.

May our act of giving set us free from the grip of riches.

May what we have given be multiplied and blessed by you

so as to do much good in our world.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

ONE: . . . and so we ask,

ALL: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Closing Hymn: VU #262 *A Mighty Fortress is our God*

(please stand as you are able)

- The "Sunday at Three" Singers at Parksville, BC. Led by Ron Klusmeier and Lonnie Moddle.

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

- sung by Linnea Good with David Jonsson

Postlude

Worship Schedule

Aug 23	<i>Thirteenth after Pentecost</i>	- Ray Friesen
Aug 30	<i>Fourteenth after Pentecost</i>	- Norma Hain
Sept 6	<i>Fifteenth after Pentecost</i>	- Rev. Kelly Osgood
Sept 13	<i>Creation Time 1</i> <i>Welcome Back Sunday</i>	- Rev. Kelly Osgood

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Community Baptist Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Wakaw

Regina: Westminster

Weyburn: Grace

Wilkie, Scott (*Wilkie*)

River Run 2026: Walk with Grassy Narrows for Mercury Justice



[Image credit: Grassy Narrows River Run]

For decades, Grassy Narrows First Nation has faced devastating harm from mercury poisoning, with lasting impacts on the community's health, culture, and livelihoods.

On September 23, United Church communities of faith across the country are invited to stand in solidarity with Grassy Narrows by amplifying the community's message or joining the United Church contingent at the River Run. The Toronto rally begins at noon at Grange Park.

[Learn more](#) and join the call for mercury justice.

[Read the full news story](#)

Chance to Recommit to Reconciliation 40 Years After United Church Apology



[Image credit: Kelly Buehler]

On August 15, Canadian Shield Regional Council will commemorate the 40th anniversary of The United Church of Canada's 1986 Apology to Indigenous peoples. Held at Laurentian University in Sudbury, the free gathering will feature keynote speaker the Very Rev. Stan McKay, along with a sacred fire, drumming, personal reflections, a community lunch, and a pilgrimage to the Apology Cairn. All are welcome to join this time of remembrance, renewal, and continued commitment to reconciliation. Learn more in the latest [news story](#).