



FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Swift Current, SK
Sunday, August 23, 2026



Thirteenth After Pentecost

Leading Worship: Ray Friesen
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Connie Sykes
Reader: Charles Lotochinski

GATHERING

Moment of Reflection

God's love is for everybody.

Everyone around the world.

You and me and all God's children.

From across the street to around the world.

- Bryan Moyer Suderman, *SmallTall Ministries*

Greeting and Welcome

Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #395 *Come In, Come In and Sit Down*
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: I look to the mountains,
the forests and plains and ask,
from where does our help come?

**ALL: Our help comes from the Lord,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

And so, we will

**worship God with our singing,
lift our prayers to the All Mighty
with bold confidence or pleading uncertainty,
hear, in Scripture and sermon, God speaking to us.**

ONE: and then, as we leave this place of worship,

**ALL: we will do so with renewed conviction that
Yahweh God keeps watch over us as we come and go,
both now and always,
God-Present, loving, caring and forgiving.**

Adapted from: Psalm 121

Opening Hymn: VU #326 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

God of Love,

Source of Life and Healing,

The reason why we have hope for our world.

Creator and Keeper of all that is, we gather this morning for another time of worship.

Some because we seek comfort,

some because we love praise, and some, well, just because.

Whatever our sense of expectation,

may we hear you speak to us.

May the experience of love grow strong as we recognize you in each other.

May our worship nurture our faith,

our courage,

our trust and confidence in you,

and our hope for our world because of You.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #501 *Break Now the Bread of Life*

(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 15:21–28

(New Revised Standard 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: *God's Love is for Every One*

Hymn: VU #606 *In Christ There is No East or West*

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Faithful Futures*

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 love and mercy, hear our prayer.

Closing Hymn: VU #678 *For the Healing of the Nations*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #481 *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Postlude

Worship Schedule

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
Sept 20	<i>Creation Time 2</i>	- Rev. Kelly Osgood

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

East Side Church of God

Living Skies Regional Council

Watrous Young (*Young – closing*)

Wolseley

Yorkton: St. Andrew's

Moose Jaw: Zion

Children of Al-Taybeh Live In Fear From Settler Harassment and Violence



[Image credit: Wikimedia/Shai Kendler]

Father Bashar Fawadleh, Latin Parish priest in Taybeh—the last remaining Christian village in the West Bank—is sounding the alarm about escalating Israeli settler violence and harassment. He says children are terrified, and those travelling to and from schools in Ramallah face unsafe roads. Earlier this month, the Israeli military closed Taybeh to non-residents in response to the settler attacks.

This place of deep significance to Christians has endured attacks, arson, harassment, and shootings. Father Fawadleh stresses that diplomatic visits alone are not enough.

[Read the full news story](#), visit the [Take Action webpage](#) to advocate for a just peace in Palestine and Israel, and share the [Prayer for the Peoples of the Middle East](#).
[Read the full news story](#).

40th Anniversary of Church Apology to Indigenous Peoples Commemorated in Sudbury



[Image credit: Kim Uyede-Kai]

Forty years after The United Church of Canada's 1986 Apology to Indigenous Peoples, more than 100 people gathered in Sudbury to remember, witness, and recommit to the work of reconciliation.

The Rev. Kellie McComb reflected on attending the original Apology as a member of the 31st General Council Youth Forum. The Very Rev. Dr. Stan McKay spoke of the Apology as a covenant and emphasized the importance of consultation with Indigenous peoples.

Participants also reflected on a question posed by Anishnaabe Elder Art Solomon after the original Apology: "What are you going to do about it?" They responded by painting commitments on stones and adding them to the commemorative cairn—a reminder that reconciliation calls for continual, meaningful action. Read the [full news story](#).