



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, August 19, 2018

### 13<sup>th</sup> After Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Reader: Jim Pratt  
Pianist: Sharon Veer  
Organist: Patti McCleary

## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*“Joy is the serious business of Heaven.”*

- C. S. Lewis

*“Whatever the eternal might be,  
it begins here as a part of who we are today.”*

- David M. Felten & Jeff Procter-Murphy

### Welcome and Announcements

### Sharing of Peace/Prelude

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Centering Hymn: VU #382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God**  
*(verses 1 & 2) (please remain seated)*

### Call to Worship

ONE: Come, people of God, come and worship here!

**ALL: We come with hearts full, hopes high,  
and faith rejoicing!**

ONE: Come, brothers and sisters in Christ,  
come and worship now!

**ALL: We come with voices, music, hands and feet!**

ONE: Come, children of the Spirit's longing,  
come and worship God.

**ALL: We come! Let us worship God together!**

From: Kate Crawford, *Gathering*, Pentecost 1 2015, pg 29.

## Worship Schedule

Aug 26	“God’s Dwelling Place”	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 2	Labour Day Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 9	Welcome Back Sunday -with Potluck Lunch	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sep 16	“Wisdom”	- Rev. Annette Taylor

---

### Recent Events

Thursday, August 16 – Helen Warren-Golden Funeral Service,  
Shirley Wilson officiating

Saturday, August 18 - Lilian Evans Memorial Service  
at Warren’s Funeral Home

## Experiences of Racism Break into the Open at GC43

The predictable processes of the 43rd General Council veered into uncharted territory as Indigenous and racialized commissioners and guests took to the microphones and for two hours shared their deeply personal experiences of racism and marginalization in the church. This turning point in the proceedings, near the end of the last day of business, Friday, July 27, was a powerful call to the church for true transformation.

Responding to a reflection by Intercultural Observer Paul Douglas Walfall, who called on the church to recognize its own racism and the marginalization of racialized members, youth delegate Daniel MacDonald and commissioner Penny Nelson presented a proposal that the General Council ask their racialized siblings for forgiveness, and that business processes and procedures be "transformed" from this point forward.

[Read More](#)

**Opening Hymn: VU pg 820 Make a Joyful Noise**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Opening Prayer**

**Spirit of Love, we feel your welcome  
in this time of worship.**

**You welcome young and old,  
all seeking peace,  
and all brimming over with energy.**

**You welcome newcomers and long-time members;  
all seeking a familiar expression of praise and prayer,  
and all seeking a startlingly new celebration of faith.**

**Ground of our Being, you welcome us all.**

*Adapted from: Celebrate God's Presence, page 24.*

**The Lord's Prayer** *(sung version – VU #959)*

**WORD**

**Hymn: VU #703 In the Bulb There is a Flower**  
*(verses 1 & 2) (please remain seated)*

**Community Learning Time**

**Hymn: VU #703 In the Bulb There is a Flower**  
*(verse 3) (please remain seated)*

**Scripture: John 6:51-58**

**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: Eternal Life**

**Hymn: VU #710 Shall We Gather at the River**  
*(please remain seated)*

**RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: Safe Haven, Stepping Stone**

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn: VU #540 Grant Us God, the Grace**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Prayer of Dedication**

**These are our monetary gifts, O God.  
With them come our hours of work,  
our years of service,  
and the love of our hearts.**

**Bless them in the work of this congregation  
and in the compassion  
they can offer the world. Amen.**

*From: Kate Gregory, Gathering Pentecost 1 2018, page 45.*

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: VU #713 I See a Hew Heaven**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Choral Closing: VU #964 Go Now in Peace** *(sung twice)*

**Postlude**

**Lectionary Readings for August 26, 2018**

1 Kings 8(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-42

Psalm 84 (VU pp. 800-801)

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

## Moderator Richard Bott at Closing Worship: The Church Is Hungry for Change



The Right Rev. Richard Bott, newly installed Moderator of the United Church, opened the final worship at General Council declaring that he is the “epitome of privilege” in a time when the church is hungry for change and needs to fully embrace racialized and marginalized people. “I stand before you tonight as a person who is a White, middle-class, middle-aged, cis, university-educated male. I don’t know what my blinders are even keeping from me, let alone the things I don’t want to look at because I am too scared,” said the Moderator.

Moderator Bott was acknowledging the **emotional period of personal sharing** that came at the close of business today. “When I came into court I heard the voices of this community, racialized and Indigenous folk, people who spoke with courage and vulnerability to me.”

Then he picked up the bundle of ashes that was presented at that time to the General Council by the All Native Circle Conference Speaker, Cheryl Jourdain. He said, “All I can say right now is ... that I have to learn and pick up this bundle until it is gone from char to ash. The grace is that I am not the only one who is going to pick this up. I pray that you are going to pick them up with me—that we might be changed by God’s grace.”

[Read More](#)