

Strathearn United Church

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Our Living Statement... Strathearn United Church is a loving Christian community living by faith and action, communicating through worship, education, fellowship and outreach, greeting the future with hope.

Minister	Rev. Sandy Ferguson
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Dr. Don Mayne
Music Director	Kathryn Wood
Musician	Shannon Hiebert
Office Administrator	Rena Spiess
Custodian	Rup, Coverall Services

We, the congregation of Strathearn United Church, are situated on Treaty 6, traditional lands of the First Nations and the Metis People.

Strathearn United Church welcomes you
to our Morning Worship.
16th of November 2025, 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME & GATHERING

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

OPENING HYMN: “O God of Every Nation” VU677

- 1 O God of every nation, of every race and land, redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand; where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled, in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.
- 2 From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right, from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night, from pride of race and station and blindness to your way, deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.
- 3 Give strength to those who labour that all may find release from fear of rattling sabre, from dread of war's increase; when hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard: with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.
- 4 Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease, when hatred and division, give way to love and peace, till dawns the morning glorious when peace on earth shall reign and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

PRAYER OF APPROACH: Jürgen Moltmann

One: God of Gethsemane and Garden, give us faith and form us in hope. Let us be impatient to undo oppression and unquieted by suffering. Let us keep awake. Let us open our eyes to what is happening, dangers and opportunities for Your kingdom come. Divine Spirit, come to us frail and earthly people and breathe into us a great, unbroken affirmation of life. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Take, O take me as I am MV85
Summon out what I shall be
Set Your seal upon my heart and live in me

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*“Our courteous God does not want their servants to despair because they fall often and grievously
For our falling does not hinder God in loving us.”
-Julian of Norwich*

All: God, before You we pray. We share in a moment of silence. Yet we can not remain silent about the turmoil of our souls, so, we share with You brokenness, in faith that we will be touched by Your grace and healed. (Silence)

One: God have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

One: God have mercy. Let us pray...

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: “Spirit, Open My Heart”

MV79

Refrain:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

1. God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. **R**
2. Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. **R**
3. May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Refrain:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

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WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE READING: BOOK OF ISAIAH 65:17-22

One: For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth

All: The former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

One: But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight.

All: I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people

One: No more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.

All: No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime

One: For one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

All: They shall build houses and inhabit them

One: They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

All: They shall not build and another inhabit

One: They shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 21:5-19

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

THE WORD OF GOD ENACTED

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" VU541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

The Dedication of Gifts:

One: God, You bless us with gifts of time, talent and treasure and in doing so, You invite us to share these gifts as a witness to our faith in Your Kingdom. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

-The Gospel of Mark 1:35

One: God, You touch our lives with healing and with justice. New life is your gift. We give You thanks for Your Good News. Revealed through Your Son Jesus Christ. Good News that invites and challenges us to be living witnesses to Your hope for a better world. And so in silence we give thanks for those who have been such witnesses in our lives. (Silence) God of compassion, We pray for this troubled world. For people who struggling with sorrows. Who struggle with injustice. Who struggle

with despair. Who struggle with uncertainty. Who fear the future. Who yearn for hope. And God we pray that You be with us, As we do what we can, To be your presence in this world. And God we come to You with the prayers of our hearts. For those who we know who struggle with illness of the mind, body and spirit. For those who are alone. For those who yearn for connection. These names we bring to you. (Silence) Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “I See a New Heaven VU713

R I see a new heaven. I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

- 1 There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
the Tree of Life will be. **R**
- 2 There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole
like flowers after the rain. **R**
- 3 There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
reveals the promise of love. **R**
- 4 There, there where we work with the love of healing
hands. Labour we must, true to our trust
to build a promised new land.

R I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

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SENDING FORTH:

One: We live in difficult days.
We live in the days of the Kingdom of God.
Let our lives be a witness to our hope in the
Kingdom.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER CYCLE OF THE WEEK

Our Family: Mary Shandro, Karen & Earle Sharam,
Susan & David Sharpe, Irene & Doug Sheppard

Within Strathearn: Our Volunteers

Northern Spirit: Children’s Sunday; Restorative Justice
Week (November 16 – 22); Transgender Day of
Remembrance (November 20); Hudson’s Hope: St.
Peter’s (SM) Pastoral Charge (St. Peter’s Church);
Leduc-Beaumont Pastoral Charge (St. David’s United)

World Council of Churches:
Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee & Conversation Hosts: *(In the Junior Room)*

Nov 16: Property & Facilities / Finance

Nov 23: Mission & Outreach / M&P / Regional Rep.

Nov 30: *Lunch*

Christmas Tea & Market 2025:

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Featuring: Christmas Tea \$5 (beverage & 2 treats – gluten free avail.); Bake Sale; Vendor tables; Christmas items, Next-to-New antiques & jewelry, Books & Puzzles.

- **Vendor Info:** Facebook / www.strathearnuc.com
(Items include woodworking, honey and beeswax products, tatting, sewn handbags and accessories, Christmas ornaments, Scentsy, fabric scarves, handmade cards, and paperwork, and much more.)
- **Volunteer Sign-up:** a few positions still need filling.
- **Walker Hall set-up and donation/baking drop-off:**
Thursday, Nov 21 & Friday, Nov 22, 11 am - 6 pm

Leaders: Irene Sheppard, Jane Mason, Rena Spiess

For more info on volunteering, donating or renting a Vendor table, please call 780-466-5822 or email Rena at strathearn@shaw.ca.

U of A Mixed Chorus & Faculty of Education Ringers:

Join us on Sunday, November 30, at 10:30 am for our first Advent service full of musical talent from the University of Alberta. A lunch will be served in Walker Hall following worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christian Development - Christian Conversations:

Lecture will be available on Thursday, December 4, on Strathearn United Church YouTube channel. The Conversation will be December 11, 12:30 – 2:00 pm in the Upper Room. More information to come.

Mission & Outreach: Christmas Campaigns

Underneath the Bissell Tree:

“Let's Get Packing.” Everyone needs a place to put personal items and things that they are given, especially those who are homeless. This year we will be collecting used, recycled and/or new backpacks. Please note that some of these backpacks may also be donated to the YESS shelter that supports adolescents in crisis in our community.

No Room In the Inn:

2025 recipient is the Edmonton area safe haven for women and children fleeing violence, WIN House. This year's donations will go towards safety improvements to one of the shelter's backyard playground spaces.

If making a cash donation, please make cheques payable to **Strathearn United Church** with *Bissell/YESS Tree* or *No Room* designations.

These holiday campaigns will run throughout December.

Upcoming December Events:

Dec 6: Men's Breakfast

Dec 7: 2nd Advent with Communion

Dec 12: Ladies' Lunch

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service