

# Strathearn United Church

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Honouring  
the Men  
who shape  
our lives

**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
Music Director	Kathryn Wood
Musician	Shannon Hiebert
Office Administrator	Rena Spiess
Custodian	Rup, Coverall Services

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

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Strathearn United Church welcomes you to our  
Morning Worship!  
21<sup>st</sup> of June 2026, the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

## MUSICAL PRELUDE

### WELCOME & GATHERING

*“Astonishing material and revelation appear in our lives  
all the time. Let it be. Unto us, so much is given.  
We just have to be open for business.” -Anne Lamott*

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

**OPENING HYMN: “I Am a Child of God”** MV157

1. I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God’s new creation. I am a child of God, I am a child of God.
2. I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation, I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.
3. I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation, I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.
4. I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication, I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.
5. I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation, I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

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**PRAYER OF APPROACH:** *A prayer for Indigenous Day of Prayer by the Rev. Maggie Dieter, former Executive Minister, Aboriginal Ministries and Indigenous Justice; and Bill Snow, Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Alberta,*

*member of the Indigenous Justice and Residential  
School Committee*

One: God, Creator and Great Mystery, we praise you for the Sacred Fires that burn today and for the prayer-filled smoke that you receive and bless. We offer our deep gratitude that the Fire's light informs and guides our journey. We pray, just as the Elders prayed, for renewal and for the restoration of beauty to the land and its people. We acknowledge the diverse and abundant gifts of Canada's Indigenous Peoples. We recognize that their knowledge and wisdom have benefited generations past and present, and that this blessing will continue for generations to come. We remember the many who are committed to the healing of family, community, and nations. We pray for Mother Earth, the waters, the winds, for our siblings the animals, birds, and fish, and all of life that surrounds us. We pray that we will walk the good Red Road of life, and that we will walk with courage, honesty, humility, love, respect, truth and wisdom. We offer this prayer in humility and hope, and in the name, of our brother Jesus, the one who lights our path to wholeness, justice and peace. Amen.

**A UNITED CHURCH CREED**

**All: We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating. Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new. Who works in us and others by the Spirit. We**

**trust in God. We are called to be the Church. To celebrate God's presence. To live with respect in Creation. To love and serve others. To seek justice and resist evil. To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

I waited, I waited on the Lord, VU954  
I waited, I waited on the Lord;  
who bent down low and remembered me  
and who heard my prayer.

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*From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near!" -Matthew 4:17*

**All: God, before You we pray. In this moment we may wonder, what do we say? What are we asking for? Let us pause and listen. And in the silence we may. My child, you are forgiven 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: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” VU271**

- 1 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea; there’s a kindness in God’s justice which is more than liberty.
- 2 There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven; there is no place where earth’s failings have such gracious judgement given.
- 3 There is plentiful redemption in the blood that Christ has shed; there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.
- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep? Foolish hearts, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?
- 5 For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind, and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

### WE SHARE IN GOD’S WORD

**RESPONSIVE READING: BOOK OF JEREMIAH 20:7-13**

- One: O God, You have enticed me, and I was enticed  
**All: You have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.**
- One: I have become a laughingstock all day long, everyone mocks me.
- All: For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, “Violence and destruction!”**
- One: For the word of God has become for me a reproach

and derision all day long.

**All: If I say, “I will not mention God or speak any more in their name,” then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones.**

One: I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

**All: For I hear many whispering: “Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”**

One: All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. “Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him and take our revenge on him.”

**All: But God is with me like a terrifying warrior. Therefore, my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.**

One: They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

**All: O God, You test the righteous, You see the heart and the mind.**

One: Let me see Your retribution upon them, for to You I have committed my cause.

**All: Sing to God, praise God, for they have delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.**

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

**READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 10:24-39**

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, 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.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not  
know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit  
intercedes with sighs too deep for words. -Romans 8:26*

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.

**HYMN:** "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" VU509

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save. I who  
made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**R** Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling  
in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's  
pain, I have wept for love of them; they turn away. I  
will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for  
love alone. I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send? **R**

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and  
lame, I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? **R**

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**SENDING FORTH:** *The Gospel of Matthew 22:36-39*  
*Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"*  
*He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all*  
*your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'*  
*This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second*  
*is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*

### POSTLUDE