

# Strathearn United Church

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WIFI: *Strathearn UC Guest* (password: faithnet)



**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

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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.  
11<sup>th</sup> of January 2026, the Baptism of Jesus

## MUSICAL PRELUDE

A TIME TO GATHER

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:** *Rachel Held Evans*

*“But sometimes I think what the church needs most is to recover some of its weird. There’s no sense in sending her through the makeover montage of the chick flick when she’ll always be the strange, awkward girl who only gets invited to prom on a dare. In the ritual of baptism, our ancestors acted out the bizarre truth of the Christian identity. We are people who stand totally exposed before evil and death and declare them powerless against love. There’s nothing normal about that.”*

**HYMN:** “When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized” VU100

- 1 When Jesus comes to be baptized,  
he leaves the hidden years behind,  
the years of safety and of peace,  
to bear the sins of humankind.
- 2 The Spirit of the Lord comes down,  
anoints the Christ to suffering,  
to preach the word, to free the bound,  
and to the mourner, comfort bring.

3 He will not quench the dying flame,  
and what is bruised he will not break,  
but heal the wound injustice dealt,  
and out of death his triumph make.

4 O Spirit help us be like Christ:  
to live in love and charity,  
to walk in truth and justice now,  
and grow in Christian dignity.

5 We praise you, God, source of all life,  
we praise you, Christ, eternal Word,  
we praise you, Spirit, gracious gift;  
your triune presence fills our world.

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### **PRAYER OF APPROACH: Alcuin of York (735-804)**

One: Eternal Light, shine in our hearts. Eternal  
Goodness, deliver us from evil. Eternal Power, be  
our support. Eternal Wisdom, scatter the shadows  
of our ignorance. Eternal Compassion, have mercy  
on us that with heart and mind and soul and  
strength we may seek Your face, and be brought  
by Your infinite mercy to the Holy Presence.  
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour, 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,  
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*

"Spirit of Life" VU381

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

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**All: God, we follow Jesus to the Jordan Heeding  
John's cry to repent! Before You we offer our  
brokenness, As we give thanks for Your gift of  
grace. (Silence)**

One: God have mercy.

**All: Christ have mercy.**

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

**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: "We Meet You, O Christ" VU183**

- 1 We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;  
your image we see in simple and wise.  
You live in a palace, exist in a shack.  
We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.
- 2 In millions alive, away and abroad;  
involved in our life you live down the road.  
Imprisoned in systems you long to be free.  
We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.
- 3 We hear you, O Man, in agony cry.  
For freedom you march, in riots you die.  
Your face in the papers we read and we see.

The tree must be planted by human decree.

- 4 You choose to be made at one with the earth;  
the dark of the grave prepares for your birth.  
Your death is your rising, creative your word:  
the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

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## WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God.  
The Gospel of John 1:1*

### RESPONSIVE READING: THE BOOK OF ACTS 10:34-43

- One: Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears God and practices righteousness is acceptable to God.
- All: You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all.**
- One: That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power
- All: How he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.**
- One: We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

**All: They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear**

One: Not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

**All: He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.**

One: All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

### READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 3:13-17

One: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God**

### SERMON:

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O God, my rock and my redeemer. -Psalm 19:14*

## 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, we share with You our gifts of time, talent and treasure as we give You thanks for the gifts You share with us. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

*Pray as though everything depended on God.  
Work as though everything depended on you.  
(Attributed to Saint Augustine of Hippo)*

One: God, we gather before You to give thanks. We give thanks for all who are Your light in the world. Who do what they can to bring compassion, hope and justice into the lives of others. Who are willing to reach out and ask, 'what can we do for you?' In silence, God, we bring to You the names of those who have been Your light to us. (Silence)  
God, we bring our prayers to You. Our prayers for a better world. Our prayers that we will have the strength, courage and compassion to embrace and enact Your vision of how this can be a better world. We pray for those who struggle in these times of economic, political and social turmoil. For those who oppression and yearn for justice. And God, we pray for Your church that we may be a light to those who struggle. 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: "For the Healing of the Nations"

VU678

- 1 For the healing of the nations,  
God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.
- 2 Lead us forward into freedom,  
from despair your world release;  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.
- 3 All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.
- 4 You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that, by our response and service,  
earth its destiny may find.

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## SENDING FORTH:

One: The Kingdom of God is at hand! We are part of that Kingdom. May our words, prayers and actions reveal the Kingdom to the world around us.  
Amen.

## POSTLUDE

### PRAYER CYCLE OF THE WEEK

**Our Family:** Kathryn Wood, Kim Cochrane & Andy Braet, Donne & David Wulf, Louise & Dave Yaremko, Sandra Young & Dennis Fry

**Within Strathearn:** Pastoral Care Committee

**Northern Spirit:** Vermilion River PC (First UC, Vermilion; Wesley UC, Kitscoty; St. Andrew's UC, Marwayne; McQueen Memorial UC, Mannville)

**World Council of Churches:** Iran, Iraq, Syria

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Jan 11:** Property & Facilities / Finance

**Jan 18:** Worship / Christian Development

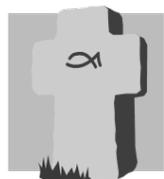
**Jan 25:** Mission & Outreach / M & P / Regional Rep.

**Book Club:**

Thursday, **January 22** at 7:00 pm on Zoom. We are reading *Circe by Madeline Miller*. A 2018 mythic fantasy novel, set during the Greek Heroic Age. It is an adaptation of various Greek myths, most notably the Odyssey, as told from the perspective of the witch Circe. For questions and Zoom link, please call Kathryn Wood at 780-293-0752 or Nancy Tysick at 780-468-1352.

**Future Events:**

- Feb 15:** Transfiguration Sunday with Communion  
**Feb 22:** Baden Powell Sunday with Lunch  
**Mar 22:** Annual Congregational Meeting  
**Mar 29:** Palm Sunday  
**Apr 3:** Good Friday Service  
**Apr 5:** Easter Sunday with Communion  
**Apr 25:** Fabulous Fabric Frenzy (GANG Sale)  
**May 3:** 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Strathearn United Celebration

**In Memoriam:****Robert (Bob) de Frece, January 7, 2026**

Dr. Robert de Frece, a member of the U of A Faculty of Education, became Music Director of the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus in 1986. He was also the founder and music director of the University of Alberta Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers. Bob introduced Strathearn United Church to the wonderful music decades ago, when he brought the concert, *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* to the congregation on the first advent. We appreciate Bob's dedication to our long-standing tradition and partnership, and keep his family and dear friends in our thoughts and prayers.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Strathearn United Celebration:**

The Task Team, consisting of Kathryn Wood, Jo-Anne Balla, Lill Park and Nancy Tysick, are welcoming recommendations and stories for the celebration. If you would like to share, please email or drop off your stories, pictures, and ideas to the office, or Task Team member.

**Strathearn United Church - Archives****UCW Purpose:**

To unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service.

**Strathearn United Church Women:**

- 1951: The first meeting of 11 women on April 12, was to discuss how they could help build a church in the Strathearn community.
- 1962: The following list of women were Charter Members and would become the Strathearn United Church Women: Luella Simonson, Ruth Elson, Marjorie Helqvist, Dorothy Spencer, Marion Craig, R Gray, S Christensen, Beth Smith, Mildred Crowell, Eileen Sortland, VR Speare.
- 2016: In expectation of the closing of this Strathearn United Church chapter of UCW, the Strathearn United Church Women Bench Dedication was at Strathearn Park on August 19.
- 2017: Banner Blessing was Thanksgiving, October 8, 2017. The UCW banner was hung in the Narthex. It was a final commitment to Strathearn United Church from their UCW. It was designed and created by Dorothy Warren (nee Schrag), a former member of Strathearn United.