

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

Music Director

Musician

Office Administrator

Custodian

Rev. Sandy Ferguson

Kathryn Wood

Shannon Hiebert

Rena Spiess

Rup, Coverall Services

Strathearn United Church welcomes you to our
Morning Worship, where all are welcome!
11th of October 2026, Thanksgiving Sunday

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME & GATHERING

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Psalm 100

*Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.
Serve God with gladness, come into their presence with
singing. Know that it is God who made us, and we are
God's people and the sheep of their pasture.
Enter their gates with thanksgiving and their courts with
praise. Give thanks to God, bless their name.
For God is good, and their steadfast love endures
forever, and their faithfulness is to all generations.*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING HYMN:

“As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought”

VU518

- 1 As those of old their first-fruits brought
of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today our first-fruits bring:
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.

2 A world in need now summons us
to labour, love, and give,
to make our life an offering to God, that all may live.
The church of Christ is calling us
to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed, by Christ-like love,
all life in Christ made new.

3 With gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best to you,
not just to serve your cause, but share
your love with neighbours too.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

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PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: God, we thank You for all good things. For life and love. For health and food. For work and home. For nature's beauty and comfort. For human skills and laughter. For memory and hope. For everything which gives us pleasure, nourishment, and strength. Amen.

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

Lord, listen to your children praying, VU400
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

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*The church must be a house of the Lord's mercy.
Where sinners find not reproach or excommunication or
harshness, but rather acceptance and the embrace of
our Lord who leads them to forgiveness.
-Archbishop Oscar Romero*

All: God we are Your people who You bless with many gifts. Yet we confess too often we struggle to be grateful. Instead of being happy with what You have given us, too often we desire more and complain when our desires are unfilled. God, we pray that You will open our hearts to the joy of giving thanks. (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: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

VU291

R All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.

- 1 Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings. **R**
- 2 The purpleheaded mountains, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky; **R**
- 3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. **R**

- 4 The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall;

R All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.

- 5 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well. **R**

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WE SHARE IN GOD'S WORD

One: God, we give thanks for Your Word. As we listen,
may these words challenge and renew our faith so
we may continue Your story in the world around us.
Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING: PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

One: Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love
and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm for God
in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge
Syntyche to be of the same mind in God. Yes, and
I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these
women, for they have struggled beside me in the
work of the gospel, together with Clement and the
rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the
book of life.

**All: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say,
Rejoice.**

One: Let your gentleness be known to everyone. God is near.

All: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

One: And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All: Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

One: As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

READING FROM GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 6:25-34

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O God, my rock and my redeemer.

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, with this offering, we present also ourselves:
All that we have been; All that we are; And all that
we shall become, Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot
change. The courage to change the things we can
And the wisdom to know the difference.
- Reinhold Neibuhr*

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: “How Firm a Foundation” VU660

- 1 How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God’s excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
- 2 “Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.
- 3 “When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.
- 4 “When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

- 5 “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not — I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I’ll never — no, never — no, never forsake!”

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SENDING FORTH: *From Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians 5:16-18*

One: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

PRAYER CYCLE OF THE WEEK

Our Family: Elaine Essien, Holly Farley,
Deborah Fisher, Joy Flack, Joyce & Bruce Flesher

Within Strathearn: Christian Development

Northern Spirit: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17); Sherwood Park United Church;
St. Paul’s United, Hardisty

World Council of Churches:
Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Oct 11: No Coffee / Happy Thanksgiving!

Oct 18: Trustees / Pastoral Care

Oct 25: Worship / Christian Development

Mission & Outreach Fall Food Bank Collection:

We are collecting donations of juice boxes during the month of September until mid-October for the Food Bank. The donations will support various school lunch and snack programs across the city. Please drop off donations in the Narthex. If you would like to make a financial donation, please **make cheques payable to Strathearn United Church**, and drop in the collection plate on Sunday or deliver to the office during the week. Your donations will be forwarded to the Food Bank, and we will issue you a receipt.

Christian Development Conversation:

The next in person CD Conversation will take place **October 29**, from 12:30 – 2:00 pm, in the Upper Room (across from the Office on the upper floor) at Strathearn United Church. Rev Sandy will post a related lecture on Youtube the week before. Topic Information and date of lecture will be announced at a later date.

Additional Calendar Dates & Events:

Oct 12 & 13: Office Closed

Oct 17: Scouting Bottle Drive – 9:00 am, Parking lot

Oct 25: Reformation Sunday with Communion

Nov 8: Remembrance Sunday

Nov 11: Remembrance Day / Office Closed

Nov 19 & 20: Prep for the Christmas Tea & Market

Nov 21: Christmas Tea & Market: more info to come

CHRISTMAS TEA & MARKET

Saturday, November 21st, from 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... and Purdy's chocolates are back!

- **Baked Items Needed** for the Bake Sale
(Please package and label all baking ingredients).
Drop off Thursday and Friday before the sale.
- **Volunteers Bakers Needed** to bake tarts at home.
Oct 18, our butter tart recipe, a package of tart shells, and sale containers, will be available for pick-up from Irene. If you would like to make something other than our butter tarts (i.e. mincemeat, pecan) please do.
- **Butter Tart Group Bake: Nov 7** in our church kitchen.
(Leader: Irene)
- **Other Donations needed:** Includes new/gently used Christmas decorations, paperback books, complete puzzles, Next-to-New items. Drop off box in Narthex.
- **Volunteer Sign-up** is in the Narthex.
- **Purdy's Chocolates** on sale until Nov 22. Catalogues and order forms will be available October 18, during coffee time, with someone to assist you with forms.
- **Sale Set-Up:** Nov 19 & 20, Junior Rm & Walker Hall.

More complete info coming ...

Leaders: Irene Sheppard, Rena Spiess, Jane Mason,

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