

# 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

## PRAYER CYCLE OF THE WEEK

**Our Family:** Wendy Banham, Jo-Anne & Miles Balla, Sarah Balla & Craig Greer & Family, Ron Banks,

**Within Strathearn:** Worship Committee

**Northern Spirit:** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Oct 17); Pilgrim Pastoral Charge, Edmonton; Moose Hill Pastoral Charge (Moore Memorial UC)

**WCC:** Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

Strathearn United Church welcomes you to our morning worship on this Thanksgiving Sunday! 13<sup>th</sup> day of October; 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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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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## MUSICAL PRELUDE

### WELCOME & GATHERING

## GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

*In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich. -Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

### HYMN: “Come, You Thankful People, Come” VU516

- 1 Come, you thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home! All is safely gathered in, safe before the storms begin; God, our maker, does provide for our needs to be supplied: come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home!
- 2 All the world is God’s own field, harvests for God’s praise to yield; wheat and weeds together sown, here for joy or sorrow grown; first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear: Harvest-giver, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
- 3 For our God, one day, shall come, and shall take this harvest home; from the field shall in that day all offences purge away; giving angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast; but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.

4 Even so, God, quickly come to your final harvest home!  
Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there for ever purified, in your presence to abide: come, with  
all your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

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## **PRAYER OF APPROACH**

One: God, we gather before You to give thanks; For the bounty  
of Your creation; For the labour of Your people; For this  
moment of fellowship that is the glimpse of Your Kingdom.  
God, we thank You for all that You share with us. 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:**

Spirit of Life, come unto me. VU381  
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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*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.*

*-Paul's letter to the Romans 8:26*

**All: God You shape us in Your image and fill us  
with Your blessings and call us to be Your  
presence in the world. You gave us creation to  
be our home. Yet, instead of giving You  
thanks, we have wounded Your creation. God,  
forgive us. And renew our understanding of  
what it means to live in relationship with You,  
creation, one another and ourselves. (Silence)**

One: God have mercy.

**All: Christ have mercy.**

One: God have mercy.

God, thank You for listening. 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: “Now Thank We All Our God”** VU236

- 1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mother’s arms has blessed us on our way with  
countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
- 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and  
keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed, and  
free us from all ill in this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God for all that has been given, the  
Son, and Spirit blest who dwell in highest heaven, the one  
eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore; for thus it was, is  
now, and shall be evermore.

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**WE SHARE IN GOD’S WORD**

*God, Your Word was shared with us through the labour  
of Your people. May we hear Your Word, understanding  
that it was shaped by the experiences of others,  
and our discerning of Your Word will be shaped  
by our own experiences. Amen.*

**RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 26**

One: Vindicate me, O God, for I have walked in my integrity, and  
I have trusted in God without wavering.

**All: Prove me, O God, and try me**

One: Test my heart and mind.

**All: For Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I  
walk in faithfulness to You.**

One: I do not sit with the worthless nor do I consort with hypocrites

**All: I hate the company of evildoers and will not sit  
with the wicked.**

One: I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O  
God, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and telling all  
Your wondrous deeds.

**All: O God, I love the house in which You dwell and  
the place where Your glory abides.**

One: Do not sweep me away with sinners nor my life with the  
bloodthirsty, those in whose hands are evil devices and  
whose right hands are full of bribes.

**All: But as for me, I walk in my integrity**

One: Redeem me and be gracious to me.

**All: My foot stands on level ground**

One: In the great congregation I will bless the Lord.

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

**A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 6:25-33**

One: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**THE WORD OF GOD ENACTED**

**A TIME OF 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.**

One: God blesses us with gifts and in doing so invites us to  
share this blessing with others. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

*Rejoice in God always; Again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. God is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. -Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-6*

One: God, we thank You as you listen to the prayers of our hearts. We thank You as You share in the joys and challenges of our everyday life. And as we give thanks to You, may we be aware of the people in our lives who share their blessings with us, and in silence give thanks for their living witness to Your love amongst us. (Silence) God, we pray for Your creation, the world we live in. For all who struggle in difficult days. For those who cry out for justice. For those who search for hope. For those who yearn for healing. For those living their lives hoping for better days. God, the world as we have shaped it fails to be the world You hoped for. Yet You have faith that we will be Your witness to Your love for all. So, God we pray that you will fill us with Your justice, Your strength and Your compassion. And in doing so we will be the people who reach out to the lost of this world and say, "You are not alone." Let it begin with prayer as 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: "Give Thanks for Life"

VU706

- 1 Give thanks for life, the measure of our days, mortal, we pass through beauty that decays, yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise, Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 Give thanks for those who made their life a light caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night, who touched the truth, who burned for what is right, Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 3 And for our own, our living and our dead, thanks for the love by which our life is fed, a love not changed by time or death or dread, Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 4 Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain lying in darkness does its life retain in resurrection to grow green again, Hallelujah, hallelujah!

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## SENDING FORTH:

One: God, as we leave this place, let our lives be filled with thanksgiving for Your presence among us. And let You Spirit guide us so may witness to You Son's vision of Your Kingdom in the here and now, As we prepare for its fulfillment. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### **Connect & Share Hosts:**

**Oct 13:** No Coffee (Happy Thanksgiving!)

**Oct 20:** Worship / Christian Development

**Oct 27:** Mission & Outreach / M&P / Regional Rep.

Please join us for coffee downstairs, following worship.