

Strathearn United Church
8510 – 95 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6C 1Y7
Ph. 780-466-5822 Email:strathearn@shaw.ca
Minister: revsandy01@gmail.com
Web: www.strathearnuc.com
WIFI: Strathearn UC Guest (password: faithnet)



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE

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: David & Laberta Basham, Madlin Beebe, Kayla & James Armitage & Family, Karen Boschee

Within Strathearn: The Choir

Northern Spirit: St. John's United Anglican Shared Ministry, Manning; Spirit West United Church, Edmonton

World Council of Churches: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara and Tunisia

Strathearn United Church welcomes you to our Morning Worship.

1st of February 2026, 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

MUSICAL PRELUDE

A TIME TO GATHER

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

'With what shall I come before God, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will God be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?' God has told you, O mortal, what is good And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - The Book of Amos 6:6-8

"When You Walk From Here"

VU298

When you walk from here, when you walk from here, walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN: "Come, Touch Our Hearts"

MV12

1. Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion, from failing embers build a blazing fire; love strong enough to overturn injustice, to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

2. Come touch our souls that we may know and love you, your quiet presence all our fears dispel; create a space for spirit to grow in us, let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.
3. Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason, set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream; help us to open doors of understanding, to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.
4. Come touch us in the moments we are fragile, and in our weakness your great strength reveal; that we may rise to follow and to serve, steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.
5. Come touch us now, this people who are gathered, to break the bread and share the cup of peace; that we may love you with our heart, our soul, our mind, our strength, our all, come touch us with your grace.

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PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Attributed to Saint Augustine of Hippo

One: God of life, there are days when the burdens we carry are heavy on our shoulders and weigh us down. When the road seems dreary and endless, the skies grey and threatening. When our lives have no music in them. Our hearts lonely, Our souls losing their courage. Flood the path with light. Turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise. Tune our hearts to brave music. Give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age. So quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all, who journey

with us on the road of life, to Your honour and glory. 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

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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“Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" not forgive us and smite those who hurt us.” -Nadia Bolz-Weber

All: God, through prayer we enter Your presence.
Yet we confess sometimes we hesitate. You know us. You know the both the good and the bad. So through prayer You invite us to be honest with You. Because with honesty comes grace. (Silence)

One: God have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

One: God have mercy. Thank You.

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: "Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" VU563

1 Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

2 You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
— you will find there my nets and labour. **R**

3 You need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving. **R**

4 You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me. **R**

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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: PSALM 15

One: O God, who may abide in your tent, who may dwell on Your holy hill?

All: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart

One: Who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbours

All: In whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honour those who revere God

One: Who stand by their oath even to their hurt

All: Who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

One: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 5:1-12

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, Creator of All, receive these gifts of time,
treasure and talents from our hearts and our
hands. May they be used to reveal Your Kingdom
in the world. 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 oppressed 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: "Be Thou My Vision"

VU642

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art, thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife; I ever with thee, and thou in my life; thou loving parent, thy child may I be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, the first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

SENDING FORTH: Cornel West

One: If the Kingdom of God is in you, you should leave a little bit of heaven wherever you go. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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