



The United Church of Canada
Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC
Trinity and First United
Worship leader Kathy Carlson

September 7, 2025

13th after Pentecost Creation 1

Land Acknowledgement

We gather on Treaty 7 land, the traditional territories of the Blackfoot people. We extend our gratitude for their enduring presence and care of the land, that sustained all our ancestors and sustains all of us now. We move together with All Our Relations in a Spirit of reconciliation.

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

We Light Our Christ Candle

Hymn # 157 MV

I Am a Child of God

Minute for Mission

For 100 years, people of The United Church of Canada have faithfully come together to follow Jesus and help others. Through Mission and Service, we have supported people in need across Canada and around the world—bringing food to the hungry, shelter to the vulnerable, justice to the oppressed, and hope to communities.

This is ongoing work. And as we look ahead, we know the needs we face will not disappear—they will deepen. Poverty, injustice, and the climate crisis will continue to challenge us, but so will our call to respond with love, compassion, and courage.

That's why we are invited to take part in something extraordinary: the Centennial Legacy Campaign. This is the most ambitious initiative our church has ever taken on. Its goal is to inspire legacy gifts that will strengthen local communities of faith, Mission and Service, and The United Church of Canada Foundation.

These gifts will honour our past, sustain our present, and ensure that our church will keep meeting the world's needs for the next hundred years—offering security, faith, and community for generations to come, and sharing God's love boldly, generously, and without hesitation. When we give to the [Centennial Legacy Campaign](#), we are not only helping today; we are also planting seeds of hope for tomorrow. Together, we can ensure that this ministry continues to grow, adapt, and serve in a world where it is increasingly needed. Thank you for your generosity, your faithfulness, and the hope you bring to the future of our church and the world.

Mission Prayer: from Song of Faith

God is creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in God. Our first response to God's providence is gratitude. We sing thanksgiving. Amen

Prayer of Reconciliation and Words of Freedom

Hymn # 131 MV

You, Creator God, Have Searched Me

Scripture Philemon 1:1-25 Message Translation

1-3 I, Paul, am a prisoner for the sake of Christ, here with my brother Timothy. I write this letter to you, Philemon, my good friend and companion in this work—also to our sister Apphia, to Archippus, a real trooper, and to the church that meets in your house. God's best to you! Christ's blessings on you!

4-7 Every time your name comes up in my prayers, I say, "Oh, thank you, God!" I keep hearing of the love and faith you have for the Master Jesus, which brims over to other believers. And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it. Friend, you have no idea how good your love makes me feel, doubly so when I see your hospitality to fellow believers.

To Call the Slave Your Friend

8-9 In line with all this I have a favor to ask of you. As Christ's ambassador and now a prisoner for him, I wouldn't hesitate to command this if I thought it necessary, but I'd rather make it a personal request.

10-14 While here in jail, I've fathered a child, so to speak. And here he is, hand-carrying this letter—Onesimus! He was useless to you before; now he's useful to both of us. I'm sending him back to you, but it feels like I'm cutting off my

right arm in doing so. I wanted in the worst way to keep him here as your stand-in to help out while I'm in jail for the Message. But I didn't want to do anything behind your back, make you do a good deed that you hadn't willingly agreed to.

15-16 Maybe it's all for the best that you lost him for a while. You're getting him back now for good—and no mere slave this time, but a true Christian brother! That's what he was to me—he'll be even more than that to you.

17-20 So if you still consider me a comrade-in-arms, welcome him back as you would me. If he damaged anything or owes you anything, chalk it up to my account. This is my personal signature—Paul—and I stand behind it. (I don't need to remind you, do I, that you owe your very life to me?) Do me this big favor, friend. You'll be doing it for Christ, but it will also do my heart good.

21-22 I know you well enough to know you will. You'll probably go far beyond what I've written. And by the way, get a room ready for me. Because of your prayers, I fully expect to be your guest again.

23-25 Epaphras, my cellmate in the cause of Christ, says hello. Also my coworkers Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke. All the best to you from the Master, Jesus Christ!

Luke 14: 25-33 Message Translation

Figure the Cost

25-27 One day when large groups of people were walking along with him, Jesus turned and told them, "Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one's own self!—can't be my disciple. Anyone who won't shoulder his own cross and follow behind me can't be my disciple.

28-30 "Is there anyone here who, planning to build a new house, doesn't first sit down and figure the cost so you'll know if you can complete it? If you only get the foundation laid and then run out of money, you're going to look pretty foolish. Everyone passing by will poke fun at you: 'He started something he couldn't finish.'

31-32 "Or can you imagine a king going into battle against another king without first deciding whether it is possible with his ten thousand troops to face the twenty thousand troops of the other? And if he decides he can't, won't he send an emissary and work out a truce?

33 "Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye, you can't be my disciple.

Message

Offertory Hymn

Take My Gifts vs 1

Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter,
Gave me life and set me free.
Now, because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away;
Now the bread of love is rising,
Loaves of love to multiply!

Offering Prayer

Prayer of Our Hearts and the Prayer of Jesus

Hymn # 216 MV

Wherever You May Go

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Blessing # 156 MV

Dance with the Spirit

Dance with the Spirit early in the morning,
Walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-born-in',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way!