



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

June 7, 2026

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Musical Prelude:

Announcements:

Land Acknowledgement:

Call to Worship:

Opening Prayer:

We Light our Christ Candles:

Hymn: VU 245 *Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet*

Children's Time:

Prayer of Reconciliation/Prayer of Confession:

Words of Freedom/Words of Assurance:

Hymn: MV 161 *I Have Called You by Your Name*

Scripture Readings:

Romans 4:13-25 The Message Translation

That famous promise God gave Abraham—that he and his children would possess the earth—was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. It was based on God's decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed. If those who get what God gives them only get it by doing everything they are told to do and filling out all the right forms properly signed, that eliminates personal trust completely and turns the promise into an ironclad contract! That's not a holy promise; that's a

business deal. A contract drawn up by a hard-nosed lawyer and with plenty of fine print only makes sure that you will never be able to collect. But if there is no contract in the first place, simply a promise—and God’s promise at that—you can’t break it.

This is why the fulfillment of God’s promise depends entirely on trusting God and his way, and then simply embracing him and what he does. God’s promise arrives as pure gift. That’s the only way everyone can be sure to get in on it, those who keep the religious traditions and those who have never heard of them. For Abraham is father of us all. He is not our racial father—that’s reading the story backward. He is our faith father.

We call Abraham “father” not because he got God’s attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn’t that what we’ve always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, “I set you up as father of many peoples”? Abraham was first named “father” and then became a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn’t do but on what God said he would do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, “You’re going to have a big family, Abraham!”

Abraham didn’t focus on his own impotence and say, “It’s hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child.” Nor did he survey Sarah’s decades of infertility and give up. He didn’t tiptoe around God’s promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said. That’s why it is said, “Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right.” But it’s not just Abraham; it’s also us! The same thing gets said about us when we embrace and believe the One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless. The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God, set us right with God.

Matthew 9: 9-13 & 18-26 The Message translation

Passing along, Jesus saw a man at his work collecting taxes. His name was Matthew. Jesus said, “Come along with me.” Matthew stood up and followed him.

Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew’s house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the

Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and misfits?"

Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."

As he finished saying this, a local official appeared, bowed politely, and said, "My daughter has just now died. If you come and touch her, she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, his disciples following along.

Just then a woman who had hemorrhaged for twelve years slipped in from behind and lightly touched his robe. She was thinking to herself, "If I can just put a finger on his robe, I'll get well." Jesus turned—caught her at it. Then he reassured her: "Courage, daughter. You took a risk of faith, and now you're well." The woman was well from then on.

By now they had arrived at the house of the town official, and pushed their way through the gossips looking for a story and the neighbors bringing in casseroles. Jesus was abrupt: "Clear out! This girl isn't dead. She's sleeping." They told him he didn't know what he was talking about. But when Jesus had gotten rid of the crowd, he went in, took the girl's hand, and pulled her to her feet—alive. The news was soon out, and traveled throughout the region.

Message:

Hymn: MV 169

When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides

Minute for Mission: Created and Loved:

Across Canada and around the world, Mission and Service partners are helping create communities where people are welcomed, affirmed, and treated with dignity. Sometimes that work is visible through advocacy, public education, or community programming. Other times, especially in places where speaking openly about 2S and LGBTQIA+ inclusion can put people at risk, it happens more quietly—through safe spaces, trusted relationships, and acts of accompaniment.

At the heart of this work is a simple but powerful truth: every person is created in God's image and loved fully by God. That love is not conditional. It is not limited by identity, orientation, or circumstance. Through acts of compassion,

protection, and welcome, Mission and Service partners reflect that love in tangible ways.

This work can take many forms. It may look like creating a community meal where everyone is welcomed without question. It may mean ensuring a young person has supportive adults around them. It may mean offering spaces where people can gather safely, share their stories, or simply exist without fear.

Sometimes it means walking alongside someone who has fled their home country because their safety was threatened due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. In a new community, through the care and support of others, they may begin to experience something many of us take for granted: the freedom to live openly, safely, and fully as themselves. That kind of welcome is life-changing.

“One of our partners in Kenya has advocated strongly for the human rights of sexual minorities, and that has caused him to be in jail, caused him to risk his life to be able to do that,” says Rev. Michael Blair. The United Church’s first openly gay General Secretary is now helping to advocate for sexual and gender minorities in other countries.

“When we hear these stories, we can see that this is a life and death matter,” he says.

We know the journey toward safety, affirmation, and justice is not complete, in Canada or around the world. Many 2S and LGBTQIA+ people still face discrimination, isolation, and violence. The work of building truly welcoming communities is ongoing.

In the face of these realities, acts of care create room for healing and hope. They witness to a faith rooted in justice, compassion, and God’s expansive love for all people. They remind people they are not alone and that they are worthy of safety, belonging, and joy.

Through Mission and Service, our gifts help support the ongoing work in Canada and around the world. Together, we are helping nurture communities where people can experience belonging and the reminder that they are cherished by God exactly as they are.

We give thanks for the many communities and partners who continue this work of affirmation, compassion, and inclusion every day of the year. Make a gift to Mission and Service today. Together, let's help share a message the world deeply needs: there is room for everyone in God's beloved community.

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*

Invitation to Offering:

Offertory: VU 603, vs 1

In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.

Offering Prayer:

Prayers of Our Hearts and the Prayer of Jesus:

Hymn: MV 145

Draw the Circle Wide

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Blessing: MV 156 Dance with the Spirit

Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

YOU ARE ALL INVITED!

**PRAIRIE SPIRIT PASTORAL
CHARGE PICNIC!**

Sunday, June 14th @ 11:00



**Rotary Reunion Center, Cardston
(south end of Lee Creek Campground)**



**This is a traditional Potluck Event, so you are
welcome to bring main dish, salads, desserts,
homemade dill pickles... whatever you choose!**

**There will be a table for gluten and/or lactose
free dishes. Please bring your own lawn chairs
and dishes.**



**It is always a good idea to pray for sunshine! There is a
playground nearby, as well as a lovely trail
down by the creek. There will be games for the
kids!**

**Please join us, as we explore other, perhaps
more famous picnics in our history!**

*All are welcome! All are welcome!
All are welcome in this place!*