



The United Church of Canada

Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC
Northminster and First United
Worship leader: Ruth Pelletier

Reader: Anna Woolford

Music: Cheryl Nelson

June 14, 2026

PSPC Annual Picnic

Hosted by St. Andrews, Cardston

Land Acknowledgement:

Call to Worship:

We welcome the day, with joy and anticipation!

We welcome the opportunities to feel young! To play!

We give thanks to God for unexpected laughter and watermelon seeds!

We give thanks to God for each other and for this unique pastoral charge.

We give thanks!

Opening Prayer:

Hymn:

Give to Us Laughter

Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy,
Let us in laughing find Christian employ,
Joining with stars and with bright northern lights,

Laughing and praising and sharing delights.
Why do we worry that we will lose face?
Why act like king for the whole human race?
Often in family, and often with friend,
Laughing at pride causes anguish to end.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
Laughter with tears brings most healing relief.
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
Joys of your presence among us increase.

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha.....!

Kids' Time – Surprise!

Minute for Mission: Making Joyful Noise:

Throughout scripture, music is part of how people express joy, hope, grief, and praise. From the Psalms to songs of celebration and courage, music has long helped people connect with God, one another, and themselves.

At First-St. Andrew's United Church in London, Ontario, two music programs, the "Treblemakers" and "Reverberations" programs, help children and youth discover that same gift today.

For many young people, music is more than something to listen to. It can build confidence, reduce stress, strengthen learning skills, and create a sense of belonging. But as the cost of living continues to rise, many families are finding it harder to afford opportunities like music lessons, instruments, or arts programs for their children.

First-St. Andrew's music programs help to ensure young people do not miss out.

Open to children and youth aged 3 to 17, the weekly programs offer a welcoming space where participants can explore music, creativity, and community together for a low fee. Each gathering begins with a shared meal, providing nourishment before children move into activities like singing, handbells, chimes, and drama.

The impact goes far beyond learning notes or rhythms. Programs like Treblemakers and Reverberations help young people develop confidence by trying new things and performing together. They encourage teamwork, creativity, and self-expression while offering a safe place and a reliable meal. Music also supports cognitive development, memory, focus, and emotional well-being—benefits that can shape a child's growth.

For some families, programs like this may be among the few accessible extracurricular opportunities available to their children. By lowering financial barriers and creating an inclusive environment, First-St. Andrew's aims to ensure every child has the chance to grow and shine.

In a world where many young people are carrying stress, isolation, or uncertainty, spaces of creativity and belonging matter deeply. Through music, meals, laughter, and shared experiences, children and youth are discovering not only new skills, but also confidence, friendship, and joy.

Through Mission and Service, we support communities and ministries that nurture young people in body, mind, and spirit. Together, we are helping create spaces where children and youth can discover their gifts, build confidence, and know they belong. Make your gift to Mission and Service today.

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

Hymn:

Make a Joyful Noise

*Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!*

Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song! (R)

Enter these gates, thanks-giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song! (R)

Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song! (R)

Prayer of Reconciliation (Seasons of the Spirit 2007):

Great God, your wonder wraps around the world and the echo of
glory stretches to the heavens.

We pause to reflect how we have tarnished that glory.
Your glory fills the throats of laughing children.

We pause to reflect when our words bring tears rather than laughter.

No enemy is stronger than you. Your love is stronger than all hatred.

We pause to reflect when we have chosen hatred before love.

The heavens overflow with majesty. The skies shimmer with glory. What are we compared to all that?

We pause to reflect when we have lost our sense of place and worth.

We resonate with the whole wonder of your love.

We pause to reflect when we love not wonder, but power.

From everything that walks to everything that swims, from everything that slithers to everything that flies...

We pause to reflect on the relationship we have with the world.

God, your glory is witnessed throughout all creation.

We pause to reflect on being witnesses to that glory again, in your name.

Words of Freedom:

Hymn: _____ I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry

All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord! Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain

I have wept for love of them; they turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (R)
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them! Whom shall I send? (R)

Scripture: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 (The Message):

God appeared to Abraham at the Oaks of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent. It was the hottest part of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing. He ran from his tent to greet them and bowed before them.

He said, "Master, if it please you, stop for a while with your servant. I'll get some water so you can wash your feet. Rest under this tree. I'll get some food to refresh you on your way, since your travels have brought you across my path."

They said, "Certainly. Go ahead."

Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. He said, "Hurry. Get three cups of our best flour; knead it and make bread."

Then Abraham ran to the cattle pen and picked out a nice plump calf and gave it to the servant who lost no time getting it ready. Then he got curds and milk, brought them with the calf that had been roasted, set the meal before the men, and stood there under the tree while they ate.

The men said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?"

He said, "In the tent."

One of them said, "I'm coming back about this time next year. When I arrive, your wife Sarah will have a son." Sarah was listening at the tent opening, just behind the man.

Abraham and Sarah were old by this time, very old. Sarah was far past the age for having babies. Sarah laughed within herself, "An

old woman like me? Get pregnant? With this old man of a husband?"

God said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh saying, 'Me? Have a baby? An old woman like me?' Is anything too hard for God? I'll be back about this time next year and Sarah will have a baby."

Sarah lied. She said, "I didn't laugh," because she was afraid. But he said, "Yes you did; you laughed."

God visited Sarah exactly as he said he would; God did to Sarah what he promised: Sarah became pregnant and gave Abraham a son in his old age, and at the very time God had set. Abraham named him Isaac. When his son was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him just as God had commanded.

Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born. Sarah said,

God has blessed me with laughter
and all who get the news will laugh with me!

She also said,

Whoever would have suggested to Abraham
that Sarah would one day nurse a baby!
Yet here I am! I've given the old man a son!

Message: Surprise!

Hymn: I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well,

In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word, I was there to cheer
you on.

You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now
belong!

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts
as one,

I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young.

I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've
begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,

I'll be there as I have always been with just *one more surprise!*

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are
old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Offering: MV 191

What Can I Do?

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy! I'll say a prayer!
I'll bring my love! I'll do my share!**

Prayers of Our People and the Lord's Prayer:

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 and the power and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen

Hymn:

Water Flowing from the Mountains

Water flowing from the mountains.
Water flowing o'er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.

*Drink deep this source of life.
Drink deep and know.
For living water sings,
and living water brings
the love that makes our spirit grow.*

Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free. (R)

Water springing from the dry place.
Water springing in the sun.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water for each one. (R) (R)

Commissioning and Benediction:

May land always shape a journey under our feet!
May sky stretch for two thousand acres above us!
May water spill life across every desert we travel!
May the wind carry our dreams and hopes!

And may the God of Creation, the God of surprises, meet us, hold us and embrace us in every moment of shadow and light!

Sung Blessing:

You Shall Go Out with Joy

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field will clap, will
clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands!

The trees of the field will clap their hands!

The trees of the field will clap their hands,

While you go out with joy!

Grace:

(Seasons of the Spirit)

We give thanks for the goodness of love that is shared.

We give thanks for this table around which we are fed.

We give thanks for this circle of friends and family

We give thanks,

We give thanks,

We give thanks.