



The United Church of Canada
Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC
Trinity and First United
Worship leader Ruth Pelletier
Reader: Gerry Dyck
Music: Cheryl Nelson

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Land Acknowledgement:

Call to Worship:

We come, this morning, as people anticipating the Spirit moving amongst us!

We come as people wishing to work for a renewed creation!

We come to listen and to learn, to worship as we embrace the good news of
God's eternal love!

Opening Prayer:

Hymn: VU 175

This is the Day that God has Made

Kid's Time:

Minute for Mission:

In the villages of Am-am and Madalipey in the Philippines, Indigenous families depend on small-scale vegetable farming to support their households. The gardens they tend provide food and a modest income for daily needs.

But over time, the land has changed. As agriculture has expanded, parts of the surrounding forest have been cleared, reducing the land's ability to hold water. The impacts of climate change have made rainfall patterns less predictable, and dry seasons run longer. For much of the year, local creeks are dry, and water must be brought in from elsewhere. It's a constant challenge that affects both daily life and the ability to grow crops.

In response, the Cordillera People's Alliance is working alongside residents to install a solar-powered water pump and storage tank. The system will be maintained locally, ensuring that the community has access to water and ownership of the solution.

With a more stable source of water for both household use and gardens, families can strengthen their livelihoods. Gardens can grow more reliably, daily needs become easier to meet, and pressure on households eases.

When we give through Mission and Service, our gifts are powering long-term support.

Our gifts to Mission and Service help provide stable access to water for Indigenous communities like Am-am and Madalipey. They help sustain life, strengthen food security, and support families as they work toward a more secure future.

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 Confession:

Loving God, we are like children who have erred and find themselves in front of a loving, understanding parent.

We are shy to name our mistakes and quick to find excuses.

Mistakes are hard to confess, because they cause us pain, pain in acknowledgement and pain for disappointing you.

Mistakes are hard to confess, because they bring us shame, we know we could do better.

Yet, without confession, how might we learn? How might we be freed from our past and opened to the new possibilities? In these silent moments, we pass through the pain and make our mistakes known to you.

In thanks for your forgiving embrace, we accept your mercy. Amen.

Hymn: VU 279

You, God, Are My Firmament

Scripture:

John 17:1-11 (The Message)

Jesus said these things. Then, raising his eyes in prayer, he said:

Father, it's time.

Display the bright splendor of your Son
So the Son in turn may show your bright splendor.
You put him in charge of everything human
So he might give real and eternal life to all in his care.
And this is the real and eternal life:
That they know you,
The one and only true God,
And Jesus Christ, whom you sent.
I glorified you on earth
By completing down to the last detail
What you assigned me to do.
And now, Father, glorify me with your very own splendor,
The very splendor I had in your presence
Before there was a world.

* * *

I spelled out your character in detail
To the men and women you gave me.
They were yours in the first place;
Then you gave them to me,
And they have now done what you said.
They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt,
That everything you gave me is firsthand from you,
For the message you gave me, I gave them;
And they took it, and were convinced
That I came from you.
They believed that you sent me.
I pray for them.
I'm not praying for the God-rejecting world
But for those you gave me,
For they are yours by right.
Everything mine is yours, and yours mine,
And my life is on display in them.
For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world;
They'll continue in the world
While I return to you.

Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life
That you conferred as a gift through me,
So they can be one heart and mind
As we are one heart and mind.
As long as I was with them, I guarded them
In the pursuit of the life you gave through me.

Acts 1:6–14 (The Message)

When they were together for the last time they asked, “Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?”

He told them, “You don’t get to know the time. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world.”

These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky. Suddenly two men appeared—in white robes! They said, “You Galileans!—why do you just stand here looking up at an empty sky? This very Jesus who was taken up from among you to heaven will come as certainly—and mysteriously—as he left.”

So they left the mountain called Olives and returned to Jerusalem. It was a little over half a mile. They went to the upper room they had been using as a meeting place:

Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas, son of James.

They agreed they were in this for good, completely together in prayer, the women included. Also Jesus’ mother, Mary, and his brothers.

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 (NRSV)

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Message:

Hymn: VU 229

God of the Sparrow

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:

Music by Pat Mayberry

Creator God, 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: VU 641

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Commissioning and Benediction:

We go out, into this day, blessed by the love of God!

We go out, refreshed, embracing creation and our love for each other!

Help us to leave our worries and our fears with you, confident in the fact that
when we are weak, you are always strong.

We rejoice, knowing we are the children of God!

May the Lord bless us and keep us;
and make his face shine on us
and be gracious unto us;
May the Lord turn his face towards us
and give us peace!

Sung Blessing: VU 958

Halle, Halle, Halle

Halle, halle, halle – lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle – lu-jah-ha-ha-ha!

Halle, halle, halle – lu-jah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!