



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

November 2, 2025

All Saints Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

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

Opening Hymn: Count Your Blessings

Words: Johnson Oatman Jr. Music: Edwin O. Excell, 1897

**When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost.
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.**

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

**Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will keep singing as the days go by.**

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings - money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

So, amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend.
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

Minute for Mission:



Faith Farming, and Friendship

For the first time in human history, more people live in cities than in rural areas, and that shift has brought new challenges, especially in caring for the Earth. In Japan, your Mission and Service gifts support a partner that's responding with vision and hope: the Asian Rural Institute (ARI).

Founded in 1973 by Rev. Dr. Toshihiro Takami, ARI trains rural leaders from the Global South in servant leadership, sustainable agriculture, and community building. Each year, participants from around the world come together for nine months of hands-on learning, studying, farming, cooking, and cleaning side by side. The farm provides almost all of the food they eat, and the surplus supports their neighbours.

This year, your support through Mission and Service helped purchase a used minibus for ARI and provided scholarships for six participants: Arun from Sri Lanka, Robert from Liberia, Lily from Zambia, Lukogo from Congo, Sarmo from Indonesia, and Bob from Kenya.

They're learning organic farming methods like composting, natural pest control, and ways to keep soil healthy. As Arun says, "God creates everything in order. If things are in order, then everything will be okay. Everything is connected."

But the lessons go beyond agriculture. Students also learn about servant leadership, leading by serving others. "Peace is number one," explains Bob. "Then love."

For Lily from Zambia, it's been especially powerful to see so many women in leadership roles. She shares, "It inspired me to show others what is possible."

Life at ARI isn't easy. Days begin early, with prayer and physical work. Cultural differences, personalities, and misunderstandings do sometimes lead to conflict. Yet these tensions also provide rich opportunities to learn reconciliation, communication, and collective responsibility. Robert said, "It is wonderful to be in diversity. There are a lot of things I like and don't like. It is a challenge to learn to overcome them. It shifted my perception on how to live, to respect culture and not to offend. It is teaching me how to live." Arun summed up, "It is sacred to live in this environment."

Through your gifts for Mission and Service, participants at ARI experience transformation in their faith, their farming, and their leadership. And when they return home, they bring that transformation with them, helping their communities grow in hope, peace, and sustainability. Thank you.

Thank you for helping seeds of change take root around the world. To learn more about ARI and the participants you support, you can [read the full story online](#).

Mission Prayer

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: MV 161

I Have Called You by Your Name

Scripture Readings: (The Message Translation)

Psalms 149

The Message

Hallelujah!

Sing to God a brand-new song,

praise him in the company of all who love him.

Let all Israel celebrate their Sovereign Creator,

Zion's children exult in their King.

Let them praise his name in dance;

strike up the band and make great music!

And why? Because God delights in his people,

adorns plain folk with salvation garlands!

Let true lovers break out in praise,

sing out from wherever they're sitting,

Shout the high praises of God,

brandish their swords in the wild sword-dance—

A portent of vengeance on the God-defying nations,

a signal that punishment's coming,

Their kings chained and hauled off to jail,

their leaders behind bars for good,

The judgment on them carried out to the letter

—and all who love God in the seat of honor!

Hallelujah!

Luke 6:20-34

The Message translation

You're Blessed

Coming down off the mountain with them, he stood on a plain surrounded by disciples and was soon joined by a huge congregation from all over Judea and Jerusalem, even from the seaside towns of Tyre and Sidon. They had come both to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Those disturbed by evil spirits were healed. Everyone was trying to touch him—so much energy surging from him, so many people healed! Then he spoke:

You're blessed when you've lost it all.

God's kingdom is there for the finding.

You're blessed when you're ravenously hungry.

Then you're ready for the Messianic meal.

You're blessed when the tears flow freely.

Joy comes with the morning.

"Count yourself blessed every time someone cuts you down or throws you out, every time someone smears or blackens your name to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and that that person is uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—skip like a lamb, if you like!—for even though they don't like it, I do . . . and all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company; my preachers and witnesses have always been treated like this.

Give Away Your Life

But it's trouble ahead if you think you have it made.

What you have is all you'll ever get.

And it's trouble ahead if you're satisfied with yourself.

Your self will not satisfy you for long.

And it's trouble ahead if you think life's all fun and games.

There's suffering to be met, and you're going to meet it.

"There's trouble ahead when you live only for the approval of others, saying what flatters them, doing what indulges them. Popularity contests are not truth contests—look how many scoundrel preachers were approved by your ancestors! Your task is to be true, not popular.

"To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer for that person. If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more payback. Live generously.

"Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that. If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that's charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.

Message: What Does God Want for Us? What Do We Want from God?

Hymn: VU 593

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

Offertory: Take My Gifts vs 2

Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God;

spiced with humour, laced with laughter--
flavour of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.

Offertory Prayer:

Prayers of our Hearts and the Prayer of Jesus:

Hymn: VU 710

Shall We Gather At The River

Commissioning and Benediction:

Sung Blessing # 213 MV

Take Up His Song

Take up his song of peace and go into the world!
Take up his song of peace in every moment,
In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
Lay them down in peace,
Lay them down
And take up his song!