



The United Church of Canada
Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC
Trinity and First United
Worship leader Rev Ruth Preston Schilk
Reader: Rosemary Neufeld
Music: Barb Goertzen

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Pre-service Music:

Welcome & Announcements:

Land Acknowledgement:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ,

which cannot be held back by distance,

which shines in each of us, no matter where we are.

[Oakbank United Church, MB]

Call to Worship: (based on the 23rd Psalm)

Tired and lost?

Walking through a dark valley?

Facing enemies within or without?

Come to God,

who is already and always present.

Rest by holy waters of stillness,

and be anointed with goodness and mercy.

The table is set with welcoming love and room for all.

Alleluia!

[RPS]

Prayer of Approach: (based on John 10)

Time for the Young and the Young at Heart:

Gospel Reading: John 10: 1-10 Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Jesus the Good Shepherd

¹⁰Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers. ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Hymn: MV 126

Are You a Shepherd?

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:41-47 Life among the new Believers

⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Life among the Believers

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds^[a] to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home^[b] and ate their food with glad and generous^[c] hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Sermon: “All Who Believed Were Together”

Confession of Faith: VU 918

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: VU 603

In Loving Partnership We Come

Mission Story: Room to Speak, Space to Listen:

On Wednesday afternoons, a group of young people come together to do something simple and powerful. They talk. These gatherings are part of a mentorship and mental health program through the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK). For many of the youth who take part, it’s one of the few places where they feel safe enough to share what they’re thinking and experiencing.

Christine now leads these conversations as a mentor, but her journey to this moment began in a similar circle, as someone seeking support herself.

In Kenya, young people are expected to grow up fast. By age 15, they may be seen as old enough to handle life on their own. But the reality is hard—youth may not get the encouragement or support they need. Some may leave school early, often because of teen pregnancy, the need to work, or lack of access to

education in general. And showing emotion—crying, opening up—can be seen as weakness.

Christine knows this reality firsthand. When struggles go unspoken, young people can feel completely alone. Youth suicide is a real and painful reality. She once carried burdens in silence, feeling the weight of expectations without a safe space to share what she was experiencing. Then she found the NCKC mentorship program.

In those Wednesday gatherings, Christine discovered something she had been missing: a place where she could speak freely, where her thoughts and feelings mattered. “Mental health means feeling safe enough to express your thoughts and feelings,” she now explains with the clarity of someone who has lived it. “Talking it out is the best way out.”

The support she received didn't just help her survive—it transformed her. “It's been one of my dreams to be there for someone,” she shares. That dream became her reality.

Today, Christine mentors 40 young people through the UCC youth mentorship program. She brings to each session the understanding of someone who has sat in their seats, who knows what it means to need someone to listen. As a mother, she practices intentional parenting—encouraging confidence, conversation, and honesty with her own daughter. She's become the person she once needed.

Her advice to the young people she mentors comes from experience: “Embrace the support if you have someone.” Christine envisions building a community of young people who can support one another, breaking the cycles of silence that too often lead to isolation and despair. Through her journey from mentee to mentor, she's proving that healing isn't just personal—it multiplies.

Through Mission and Service partner the National Council of Churches of Kenya, Christine and her community are creating spaces for young people to be heard and reminding them that they matter.

When we support Mission and Service, we are helping make spaces like this possible—places where listening leads to hope, and where young people don't have to face everything alone. Let's be the community that shows up. By giving to Mission and Service, we stand with young people in Kenya and around the world, helping ensure that safe circles continue, mentors are trained, and hope keeps multiplying.

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

Offering:

Invitation for Tithes and Offering (based on 1 John 3:17-18)

Doxology: 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!

Prayer of Dedication:

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: MV 145

Draw the Circle Wide

Commissioning and Benediction:

Sending Song: MV 122

This is the Day

This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!
We will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!
We will rejoice and be glad!