

First United Church, Melville, SK
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 5, 2023

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

* Indicates the congregation is to stand.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

A moment of Remembrance

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come as the gathered of God,
brought into God's storied presence and saving love.

**All: Give thanks to God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Come from and with your wanderings and searchings.

All: Give thanks to God, who companions us on our way.

One: Come with your thirst and hunger for that which is good,
and that which brings good.

All: Give thanks to God, whose goodness does not fail.

One: Come as those who would be
encouraged and transformed by God.

**All: Give thanks to God,
whose purpose is life renewed and redeemed.**

*HYMN#409, Morning Has Broken

PRAYER OF APPROACH/CONFESSION:

One: We feel your welcome, gracious God,
in this time of worship.

**All: You welcome young and old,
all seeking peace, and all brimming over with energy.**

One: You welcome newcomers and long-time members;
all seeking a familiar expression of praise and prayer,
and all seeking a startlingly new celebration of faith.

All: You welcome us all, welcoming God.

One: Jesus taught us not to be anxious about our lives or about tomorrow. Are there anxieties that cause us to feel separated from the peace which Christ promises? Let us turn to God in prayer.

All: God of Love, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done; we have sinned in ignorance; we have sinned in weakness; we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, and renew our lives.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God's forgiving love. God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace.

*HYMN#412, This is the Day

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

One: Ark-borne God, we hold you in the sanctuary of our own hearts, through wilderness and water into every new moment. Psalm-sung God, we hold you in the stories of your people through age upon age, in every new generation. Hold us always. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Joshua 3:7-17

RESPONSIVE PSALM: 831 & 832 Parts 1 and 4 only

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 23:1-12

One: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN#499, O Christ, the Word Incarnate

SERMON:

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Our offering for God's work in the World
Offertory Hymn#469, We Gather Here

Communion Prayer

One: May God be with us.

All: God is with us.

One: Let us open our hearts to God.

All: We open them to God and to one another.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

One: O Holy God you are wise
and compassionate toward our weakness,
we praise you and give you thanks,
because you emptied yourself of power
and entered our struggle,
taking upon you our unprotected flesh.
You opened wide your arms for us upon the cross,
becoming scandal for our sake,
that you might sanctify even the grave
to be a bed of hope to your people.
Therefore, with those who are made refugees in their own land,
abandoned or betrayed by friends,
whose bodies are violated or in pain;
with those who have died alone
without dignity, comfort or hope;
and with all the company of saints
who have carried you in their wounds,
we join to praise you, saying:

#934, Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Bless'd is the
one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: Blessed is our brother, Jesus,
who, before his suffering, earnestly desired
to eat with his companions
the Passover of liberation;
who, on the night that he was betrayed,

took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

“This is my body, which is for you.

Do this to remember me.”

In the same way, after supper, he passed the cup, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this whenever you drink it,

to remember me.”

All:#935, Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

One: Therefore, as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we are proclaiming Christ’s death until he comes.

In this communion,

we restore to memory and hope

the broken and unremembered victims

of tyranny and sin;

and we long for the bread of tomorrow,

and the wine of the age to come.

Come then, life-giving Spirit of our God,

brood over these bodily things,

and make us one body with Christ,

that we may labour with creation

to be delivered from its bondage to decay,

into the glorious liberty

of all the children of God.

#935, Great Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen.

One: Let us pray the prayer our Lord and Saviour
taught us:

All: sing #959

Bread for the journey. The wine of arrival. These are the
gifts of God for the people of God. All are invited to
partake. Today communion will be served by intinction.
Communion hymns: #197, MV, Bread of Life.

Prayer after Communion

One: Let us give thanks for the gifts we have received at God’s table saying:

All: We give thanks, almighty God,

that you have refreshed us at your table

by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.

Strengthen our faith,

increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world
united in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

WE GO INTO GOD'S WORLD

*HYMN#422, God Be with You till We Meet Again

*Commissioning

One: Those whom God has gathered, God now sends forth.

All: We are blessed to go

in the presence of God who leads us.

One: As long as we follow in the way God is leading –

All: we know God's realm will surely appear.

One: Go then as the people of God, encouraged and empowered
by God who goes with us.

Sung Benediction#967, Threefold Amen

*Postlude