

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

**OUR MISSION:** Christ calls us to be faithful disciples who strive to be joyful in our worship, tender in our life together, and daring in our outreach.

We acknowledge we worship on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional homeland of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the Métis Nation.

Minister: The Rev. Amanda Currie

Music Director: Will Ireton / Pianist today: Gabe Omolida

Music Scholars: Vynz Hipolito and Grace Podbielski

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Aksa Yakemchuk

Entry of the Written Word

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is alive; let all the people praise God.

**Let all creation sing with joy. Alleluia!**

Prayer of Approach

Hymn: Spirit of the living God #400

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**God of mercy,  
your command to love one another  
across all differences  
opens us to new horizons,  
yet we often respond with fear and judgement  
that hinders your goal for humanity.  
Forgive our sins, we pray,  
and give us a true repentance  
that leads to life for all creation.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Ministry of Music

*Gather Us In*

Jay Althouse

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Children's Time

Hymn: Draw the circle wide MV#145

Prayer for Illumination Marianne Woods

Scripture Readings:

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Sung Response: **Heav'n and earth and all creation,  
praise and magnify God's name.**

**R** Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise the Lord in the heights!  
**Praise the Lord, all angels;  
praise the Lord, all the host of heaven!**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
praise the Lord, all you shining stars!  
Praise the Lord, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!  
**Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded and they were created,  
who established them forever and ever,  
and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. R**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
**you sea monsters and all deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!**

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
**Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

Rulers of the earth and all peoples,  
leaders and all judges of the earth!  
Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!  
**Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
whose name alone is exalted,  
whose glory is above earth and heaven. R**

The Lord has raised up a horn for the people,  
praise for all the faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to their God.  
**Praise the Lord!**

R

Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Sermon: *By Our Love*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People  
O God of love,  
**Raise us to new life in Christ.**

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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Hymn: Help us accept each other #632

We Present our Gifts to God

Offertory

Doxology (#306) and Prayer of Dedication:  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures high and low;  
praise God in Jesus fully known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

### WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn: We are one in the Spirit #471

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amen (#780): **Amen, amen, amen.**

Aaronic Blessing (#619)

**The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you his peace.**

Postlude

### HYMNS for Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>

#400 - Spirit of the living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me!

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;  
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:  
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.

Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

MV#145 - Draw the circle wide Gordon Light

Refrain: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms. *Refrain*

Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. *Refrain*

Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. *Refrain*

### #632- Help us accept each other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,  
to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need  
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

### #471 - We are one in the Spirit

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity will one day be restored,  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land,  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride,  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, who is God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one,

and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love.

### Gather Us In (Jay Althouse)

*Gather us in, the meek and the mighty.  
Gather us in, the strong and the lame.  
Gather us in and make our lives holy.  
Gather us into Your heart again.*

*Gather us in, the rich and the lowly.  
Gather us in, the wild and the tame.  
Gather us in and make our lives holy.  
Gather us into Your arms again.*

*Though we are lonely and often lost,  
We know that You will guide us.  
We'll never hunger, we'll never thirst  
For You are here beside us.*

*Gather us in, all creeds and all colours.  
And gather us in, the fancy and plain.  
Gather us in and make our lives holy.  
Gather us into Your heart again.*

*Gather us in and make us one.*

### Pray with your First Church Family

#### **Please pray for...**

- Families and communities that struggle with disagreement and division over ideology, beliefs, and values.
- People who are excluded based on their age, gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, that they may find communities of welcome and belonging.
- Jeannie Macfarlane and all who mourn the death of John Macfarlane, that we may be comforted.
- Peace, security, and courage for the people of Ukraine in the midst of war, and for the peace of the whole world.

#### **Praise God for...**

- The ways the Spirit of God prompts and challenges us to love one another across our differences.
- A vision of a new creation in which there is no more death, mourning, crying, or pain.

- The news that the refugee process for the Mathiang family is moving along, and we can start getting ready to welcome them to Canada.

### **This Week at First Church**

May 15	10:30 am	Worship (In-Person & YouTube) Sunday School (In-Person)
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour in the gymnasium
	1:00 pm	Church Membership Class (Hybrid: Morris Room & Zoom)
May 17	12:30 pm	Freedom 55ers (Zoom)
May 18		Sorry, No Bible Study Today
May 19	7:30 pm	Choir
May 22	10:30 am	Worship (In-Person & YouTube) Sunday School (In-Person)
	11:45 am	Coffee Hour in the gymnasium
	1:00 pm	Church Membership Class (Hybrid: Morris Room & Zoom)

**Office Hours** Mon. 8:30-11:15am/Wed. to Fri. 8:30am-2pm.  
Contact Shirley at the office at 306-522-9571 or  
[firstpresregina@sasktel.net](mailto:firstpresregina@sasktel.net).

**Newsletter** May's edition of First Things First is available.  
Please enjoy the read and check out what is coming up at  
First Church this month.

**Interested in Church Membership?** Membership classes are starting today! They will explore the basics of the Christian faith including God, the Trinity, the Bible, practices of worship, prayer, stewardship, justice, and mission.

Sessions will be on Sundays from 1:00 – 2:30 pm on May 15, 22, 29, and June 12. Be in touch with Amanda if you are interested in participating online or in-person. Anyone is grade 9 and up is welcome!

**Camp Christopher** We are excited to be approaching another camping season! Please check the table on the narthex for camper brochures, camper registration forms (also online), staff application forms, work crew volunteer letters and volunteer application forms.

We need volunteers throughout May and June to help with the maintenance of camp.

Our to-do list:

- Paint/stain: cabin, decks, various signs, lodge
- General handy work: shelving in kitchen porch, install coat hooks and chalkboard, caulk/insulate doors and windows
- Clear walking paths: clear leaves and other debris
- Build a GAGA pit: this game is similar to dodgeball and the kids love it!
- Moving items into our new boathouse
- Are you an electrician?: install motion sensor light switches, disconnect power from old boathouse and connect to new boathouse

If you would like more information, or would like to sign up, please contact Donna Wilkinson at [info@campchristopher.ca](mailto:info@campchristopher.ca) or call her at 306-535-6916.