



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Prairie to Pine Regional Council

Annual Celebration of Ministries Sunday Service

Sunday, May 31, 2026

**Time & Place: 10:30 a.m.
@ Selkirk United Church,
Selkirk, Manitoba**



ORDER OF SERVICE

WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Introit: Love is Love is Love is Love (Justice Choir Songbook) *by Abbie Betinis*

Welcome & Announcements: (Lynne Sanderson, Past-Chair of Prairie to Pine Regional Council)

In the name of Emmanuel, God with us, in the name of Jesus Christ, teacher and friend and in the name of the Holy Spirit who comes alongside us as our guide, welcome to this time of worship and celebration. May it be both blessing and joy!

Lighting the Christ Candle: Past-Chair

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ's presence with us in this time and place. Of all the things this flame represents to us individually, it also reminds us of our collective call to create community, which we animate together through worship and service. Amen.

Rainbow candle to be lit: Past-Chair

God rejoices in the uniqueness of everybody and every being. The presence of God welcomes the fullness of who we are. Prairie to Pine Regional Council is an Affirming ministry that joyfully affirms God's love for all, including 2SLGBTQA+ people. We light this candle in celebration of our diversity and our unity. May all who long for Love's embrace feel their Holy worth.

Territory Acknowledgement: Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

Prairie to Pine Regional Council is located on lands covered by Treaties 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9. These are the traditional and ancestral lands of many Indigenous peoples, including Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe/Saulteaux), Nehethowuk (Rocky Cree), Ininiwak (Swampy Cree), Nehiyawak (Plains Cree), Anishinewak (Ojibwe-Cree), Dakota, Dene; and the homeland of the Red River Métis.

Treaties created relationships between Treaty partners, and the agreements that they made were intended to be mutually beneficial. The Treaties are living documents that include all of us, and so we are all Treaty People. We acknowledge that five Dakota communities in Manitoba are not signatories to any treaty with Canada.

As Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who call this land home, we know that the mistakes which are part of our history of colonization have caused deep and lasting harm.

We affirm that the Sovereignty and distinct Nationhood of Indigenous Peoples need to be upheld and that the sustaining connection to traditional and ancestral lands must support in practical ways this Sovereignty and Nationhood.

We commit ourselves to the truth-telling that needs to continue to happen as we seek reconciliation and healing and as we work toward a better future.

Welcome to Selkirk United Church:

Call to Worship: Past-Chair

(Words composed by Hyerim Park, Candidate for Commissioning to Diaconal Ministry)

Come, let us worship God,
who meets us in our joy, our questions, and our hope.

**We come to worship the God who gives life
and calls us into community.**

Come, let us follow Jesus,
who shows us the way of love, courage, and service.

**We come to give thanks for the ministries
God is raising up among us.**

Come, let us be open to the Spirit,
who deepens our faith, strengthens our discipleship,
and leads us toward justice.

**We come seeking deep spirituality,
bold discipleship, and daring justice.**

With gratitude for the past,
with hope for this day,
and with trust in God's future,

let us worship God together.

Opening Hymn (VU #34) "Come Now, O God of Peace" *(chosen by Hyerim Park)*

Ososo ososo,
pyonghwa eui imgum
uriga hanmom
iruge hasoso.

Come now, O God of peace,
we are your people;
pour out your spirit
that we be one body.

Opening Prayer: (unison)

**Loving God,
 we gather today with grateful hearts.
 We give thanks for your presence
 in our lives, in our communities,
 and in the ministries of Prairie to Pine Regional Council.
 Be with us in this time of worship.
 Be in the songs we sing,
 the prayers we offer,
 the words we hear,
 and the promises we make.
 Deepen our spirituality.
 Strengthen us to follow Jesus with courage.
 Open our hearts to your daring justice.
 Bless this whole gathered community,
 and send us from this place
 with love, humility, and hope.
 In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 3:1-12 (Youth Representative)

Sermon: by Moderator, *The Right Reverend Dr. Kimberly Heath*

MINISTRY CELEBRATION SERVICE:

VU # 567 – Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)

(chosen by Rev. Sourav Nag)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
 Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
 Will you let my love be shown?
 Will you let my name be known?
 Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
 Will you care for fool and kind and never be the same?
 Will you risk a hostile stare
 Should your life attract or scare?
 Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
 Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
 Will you kiss the leper clean
 And your such as this else seen
 And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
 Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
 Will you use the faith you've found
 To reshape the world around
 Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same
 In your company I roam
 Where your love and footsteps show
 Thus I move and live and grow in you and you in me

Admission & Commissioning:

Executive Minister

The song of faith, one of our doctrinal statements reminds us,
 “We are each given particular gifts of the Spirit.
 For the sake of the world,
 God calls all followers of Jesus to Christian ministry.

In the church,
 some are called to specific ministries of leadership,
 both lay and ordered;
 some witness to the good news;
 some uphold the art of worship;
 some comfort the grieving and guide the wandering;
 some build up the community of wisdom;
 some stand with the oppressed and work for justice.
 To embody God’s love in the world,
 the work of the church requires the ministry and discipleship
 of all believers.”

Today we celebrate through Commissioning, Ordination and Admission the varied ways
 we come to be leaders within the church- the diversity of ministry is our strength- we do
 this work together.

Past-Chair:

Jesus Christ came into the world to be the servant of God and all people. As servant Lord, Jesus calls his Church to a ministry of worship, witness, and reconciliation. In baptism, we were received as members of his Church, and at confirmation we committed ourselves to its ministry. In order that this ministry of the whole Church may be fulfilled, God has given the ordained ministry of word, sacrament, and pastoral care and the diaconal ministry of education, service and pastoral care. It is the responsibility of the church to seek, train, and set apart those whom God calls so to serve.

Long before we came to this moment, God has been at work, moving through the life of The United Church of Canada and through the lives of these candidates for ministry who now present themselves before us. Through the movement of the Holy Spirit, each of these individuals has journeyed the paths that have brought them to this point, on this day, and so we come together to celebrate Christ's ministry in and through these people and authorize their ministry among us.

Vocational Minister: Laura Fohse

I present to you Hyerim Park as a candidate for the Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care. The Prairie Candidacy Board of The Office of Vocation believes she is called and equipped for the ministry they will serve.

And I present the Reverend Luckson Mariba from the Reformed Church in Zimbabwe and the Reverend Sourav Nag from the Church of North India, who are to be admitted to the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada. The Admissions Board of The Office of Vocation believe they are called and equipped for the ministry they will serve

Past-Chair to the Region:

Friends, in Christ's love, we are gathered together to welcome these people into their particular ministries. Those who, on our behalf, have inquired about them and examined them believe they are called and equipped to serve God in these ministries. Are you ready to support them in the ministries to which God has called them and for which they have offered themselves?

We are, God being our guide.

Will you offer your ministry to these persons, and receive ministry from them?

We will, God being our guide.

Past-Chair to the Candidates:

To all of you who have presented yourselves to be authorized for ministry, I ask you now the questions contained in the Basis of Union of The United Church of Canada. Do

you believe in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you commit yourself anew to God?

I do believe, and recommit myself to God.

Are you willing to exercise your ministry in accordance with the scriptures, in continuity with the faith of the church, and subject to the oversight and discipline of The United Church of Canada?

I am willing, praying that God be my guide.

(As they are called, Candidates come forward with support people):

(Past-Chair calls forward Hyerim Park)

Past-Chair:

Hyerim Park, you have heard your name called. Do you believe that God is calling you to the Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care within the United Church of Canada, and do you accept this call?

I do, and I accept this call.

God who invites all of us into ministry, may your Holy Spirit dwell among us, filling our hearts as we commission Hyerim and may her ministry be blessed by your presence.
Amen.

(Candidate kneels, and those appointed lay on hands)

By the power of your Spirit, O God, fulfill the call of Hyerim Park to Diaconal Ministry in your church and strengthen in her your gifts of ministry.

(Candidate rises)

In the name of Jesus Christ, our only head of the church and by the authority of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council in The United Church of Canada, I declare that Hyerim Park has been Commissioned to the Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care within The United Church of Canada.

Executive Minister:

Take this gift; proclaim in word and action the gospel of Christ with diligence and love.

(Past-Chair calls forward Rev. Luckson Mariba)

Luckson Mariba, you have heard your name called. We recognize your ordination and are pleased that you have chosen to join us in our particular life within God's church.

God of all grace, you have called us to be your people and given the gift of ministry; move among us now by your Holy Spirit that your servant Luckson Mariba, whom we now admit to The United Church of Canada, may minister among us faithfully and in your grace. Amen

In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church and by the authority of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, I declare that Luckson Mariba, ordained minister in the Reformed Church in Zimbabwe, has been admitted into the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada.

Executive Minister:

Luckson, take this gift and continue to proclaim in word and action the Gospel of Christ with diligence and love.

(Past-Chair calls forward Rev. Sourav Nag)

Sourav Nag, you have heard your name called. We recognize your ordination and are pleased that you have chosen to join us in our particular life within God's church.

God of all grace, you have called us to be your people and given the gift of ministry; move among us now by your Holy Spirit that your servant Sourav Nag, whom we now admit to The United Church of Canada, may minister among us faithfully and in your grace. Amen

In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church and by the authority of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, I declare that Sourav Nag, ordained minister in the Church of North India, has been admitted into the Order of Ministry in The United Church of Canada.

Executive Minister:

Sourav, take this gift and continue to proclaim in word and action the Gospel of Christ with diligence and love.

Let us greet these ministers of the church:

Halle, Halle, Halle (VU#958)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Invitation to the Offering: Executive Minister

(Words composed by Reverend Luckson Mariba, Minister for Admission)

Friends, in Matthew's Gospel the risen Christ sends us out with a simple but world-shaping call: *Go... teach... love... baptize... and remember that I am with you always*. We live out that call not only with our words, but with our lives in the way we care for one another, in the way we show up for our communities, and in the way we share what we have so that hope can take root. In the United Church of Canada, our giving becomes ministry:

a meal for someone who is hungry,
 a safe place for a child to belong,
 a voice for justice,
 a circle of care for the lonely,
 a sign that God's love is still moving in the world.

Today, as we offer our gifts, we join Christ's mission in our own time and place. We give because we believe God is still revealing love, still drawing near, still sending us out to be good news. Let us bring our gifts with gratitude, courage, and joy.

Offering Hymn (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.

Offering Prayer: Executive Minister

God of all creation and God of all compassion, you call us to follow Jesus into the world, to teach, to welcome, to heal, to serve, and to trust that You are with us always. Bless these gifts we offer today: the coins and bills, the online donations, the quiet acts of kindness, the time we give, and the love we share.

Take what we bring and weave it into your mission, into justice that lifts the oppressed, into compassion that heals the hurting, into community that welcomes the lonely, into hope that reaches those who feel forgotten. Make us a church that reflects Your nearness, Your generosity, and Your deep desire for a world made whole. In the name of the risen Christ, our companion on the journey,

Amen.

Prayer of the People (Responsive): Past-Chair

(Words composed by Reverend Sourav Nag, Minister for Admission)

God, as we stand at this threshold of uncertainty and promise, we bring our fragile, yearning hearts together to seek your guidance for the road ahead.

We gather in the tension of a world that is trembling. From the battlefields where silence is shattered by violence, to the hidden places where hunger and sorrow live, we bring the brokenness of our global family to your altar. We feel the weight of a world that has forgotten how to be one.

God of all grace, breathe new life into our weary hearts.

We bring before you our Regional Councils, our ministries, and our local communities of faith. We confess that we have often clung to the comfort of what we know, even as the landscape shifts beneath our feet. Give us the courage to step into the unknown. When we feel small, remind us that you are the potter and we are the clay, and your work in us is not yet finished.

God of all grace, breathe new life into our weary hearts.

Lord, deepen our spirits. Let our roots go down into the quiet waters of your love so that we may withstand the storms. Make us bold in our walk, daring to love where there is hate and to build bridges where there are walls. We seek to be a people who do not just talk of your light, but who walk into the darkness to carry it.

God of all grace, breathe new life into our weary hearts.

We pray for those whose voices are silenced by injustice, for those who feel abandoned, and for our own tired hearts. Teach us to prioritize your mission over our structures. Help us to remember that you are doing a new thing and we will perceive it.

God of all grace, breathe new life into our weary hearts.

Creator, we look upon the land, the air, and the waters that sustain us. We have often turned our gaze away from the suffering of your creation, but today we commit to a different path. May our journey toward 2035 be one of healing for the earth, recognizing that your love encompasses every living thing.

God of all grace, breathe new life into our weary hearts.

For the ministers who carry the weight of these communities, and for every person sitting in the pews wondering if their witness still matters: grant them a fresh fire. May we become a people who do not fear the future, but rather run toward it with open hands, trusting that you are already there, waiting for us.

God of all grace, breathe new life into our weary hearts.

God of love, may we go forth as a people bound by your love, carrying the light of 2035 not as a distant goal, but as the heartbeat of our life in you today. **Amen**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion:

Hymn (TLUS # 23) A Place at the Table

**Refrain: and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!**

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

For all who share life, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for all who share life, a system that's fair,

For those we neglect, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for those we neglect, the right to belong,

For all who have breath, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space
a rainbow of race and gender and colour
for all who have breath, the chalice of grace,

Communion Liturgy:

The Spirit of God be with you all.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them to God.

Give thanks to our God!

All our thanks, all our praise!

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!

Before all that is, You were God.

Outside all we know, You are God.

After all is finished, You will be God.

Archangels sound the trumpets,

Angels teach us their song,

Saints pull us into your presence.

And this is our song:

Holy, Holy, Holy, God,

our life, our mercy, our might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Save us, we pray, you beyond all.

Blest is the One who comes in your name.

Save us, we pray, you beyond all.

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!

You beyond the galaxies,

You under the oceans,

You inside the leaves,

You pouring down rain,

You opening the flowers,

You feeding the insects,

You giving us your image,

You carrying us through the waters,

You holding us in the night,

Your smile on Sarah and Abraham,

Your hand with Moses and Miriam,

Your words through Deborah and Isaiah,

You lived as Jesus among us,

Healing, teaching, dying, rising,

Inviting us all to your feast.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people
 for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, we remember your Son,
 His life with the humble,
 His death among the wretched,
 His resurrection for us all:
 Your wisdom our guide,
 Your justice our strength,
 Your grace our path to rebirth.

And so we cry, Mercy:

Mercy!

And so we cry, Glory:

Glory!

And so we cry, Blessing:

Blessing!

Enliven this bread, Awaken this body,
 Pour us out for each other.
 Transfigure our minds,
 Ignite your church,
 Nourish the life of the earth.
 Make us, while many, united,
 Make us, though broken, whole,
 Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three,
 Our Life, our Mercy, our Might,
 Our Table, our Food, our Server,
 Our Rainbow, our Ark, our Dove,
 Our Sovereign, our Water, our Wine,
 Our Light, our Treasure, our Tree,
 Our Way, our Truth, our Life.
 You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!
 Praise now,
 Praise tomorrow,
 Praise forever.

And so we cry, Amen:
Amen!

Anthem: “Our Father in Heaven”

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

The bread that we break
is our communion in the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless
is our sharing in the life of Christ.

Sharing in the Sacred Meal

SENDING FORTH

Hymn (TLUS # 30) We’re the Light of the World (We Are a Rainbow)

**Refrain: We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace
 For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,
 Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
 Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**

We’re the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
 We’re a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
 We not hide our lamp beneath a bushel anymore,
 We will shine a ray of hope that’s burning bright.

We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many different threads,
 Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,
 God said, "Let there be light," created every varied shade,
 In the rainbow each of us can find a place.

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,
 We are peace in a world that's torn apart,
 We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face
 We are love that blooms and grows in every hearts.

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,
 For our God will be with us on the way,
 Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened anymore,
 As the mourning night of tears breaks into day.

Commissioning and Benediction:

Holy and Creating God, you gave us the great commission: Go into the world to heal, preach, witness and love. Your Spirit's gifts empower us for this holy work of ministry. You sent Jesus, the Word made flesh to show us the way. Through all these things we see what abundant life can truly mean for each of us, and for all, by drawing us together into community. Bless us now as we go from this place to go and be your church in this world; to be a voice of justice and hope; to be listeners and encouragers; to be messengers of love and peace. God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen!

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Past-Chair: Lynne Sanderson

**Executive Minister: Rev. Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister,
Prairie to Pine Regional Council**

Preacher: The Right Reverend Dr. Kimberly Heath, Moderator, The United Church of Canada

Scripture Reader: Youth Representative

Office of Vocation Minister: Laura Fohse

Commissionand: Hyerim Park

Admittands: Reverend Luckson Mariba & Reverend Sourav Nag

Selkirk United Church: Reverend Cole Grambo, Ministry Personnel

**Music Leadership:
Ruth Denton & Stephen Cocks (pianist)**

Regional Council Community Choir

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