

Communion, The Lord's Prayer (*Insert*)

Instrumental music during communion distribution

Choir Anthem: Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Hymn: VU 375 Spirit of Gentleness

To Depart in Faith

Commissioning and Benediction

Beloved, as you go out into the world this year, hold this blessing on your heart: God who created you has chosen you for hope. So, may the Word of Life dance in you like the lights in the northern sky. May the power of the Spirit awaken your heart with awe and may your witness awaken the world in which you live. May we travel together, listen together, love together, and grow together in the life of Christ, as the Body of Christ. For we are called to life—To live a Deep Spirituality, a Bold Discipleship, and a Daring Justice in Christ's name, through whom all things are possible. **Praise be to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine! Glory be to God, in Christ Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, from generation to generation. Amen!**

Closing VU 424 May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new; faithful when we hear Christ's call!

May the God of healing free the earth from fear, freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued. May the God of love keep our commitment clear, to a world restored, to human life renewed. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new; faithful when we hear Christ's call!

Meridian Pastoral Charge

May 24, 2026 Pentecost

The 101st Anniversary of the United Church of Canada

Avonlea, Sanford & Starbuck United Churches

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Order of Service

Welcome and Announcements

Acknowledging the Territory

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have lived on and cared for this land, Manitoba, a name from Cree meaning: 'The Place of the Great Spirit; in the country we call Canada—a name from Huron meaning 'Village.' **As a community of faith on Treaty 1 Territory, we seek right relations with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples, to learn from each other, to live on this land as brothers and sisters, with respect and gratitude for all creation and The Creator.**

Introit VU 401 Worship the Lord

Call to Worship

Spirit of Creation, you call us into being.

Spirit of life, you breathe your presence into us.

Spirit of love, you fill us with blessings for others.

Spirit of Christ, you breathe us into the world.

Spirit of God, be our life and our power.

Spirit of God, make us your Body, the Body of Christ.

Christ Candle

Spirit of God, you hovered over the waters before the first days of Creation when you said, "Let there be light", and you hovered over the disciples at Pentecost, on the first day that Christ's church came alive. You were present to our ancestors in faith 101 years ago as they came together to form The United Church of Canada, You were present in all those who continued to build a uniting church in the generations that followed, and we believe that you are still present with us today. **May your light open our hearts to you in this time**

so that we might know your wisdom, trust in the ways you proclaim, and live into them with hope! Amen

Prayer of Approach

Awesome God, on Pentecost, you gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to an expectant and united church. And by your Spirit, you bring us to this time and place to lift our hearts, minds, and bodies to worship you. Grant us the hope of the same Spirit in our life and worship. Help us to expect great things from you, and attempt great things for you! We are diverse in many ways, but our hearts are one in you. May we show the world the love we experience in Jesus, and the power we find in the Spirit as we seek to honour your dream. To your glory be our worship and witness. Amen.

Hymn: T'was on the Day of Pentecost (insert) By Muriel & William Cross

Prayer of Confession

Come, O Holy Spirit, **break into our world, for we need you.**
Come, O Holy Spirit, **dance your way into the corners of our lives where we are overwhelmed and angered by the tragedy, injustice, and horrors unfolding in this world, where we are grieving, questioning, wondering, and waiting.**
Caress us with your comfort. **Mend our broken spirits.**
Tickle us with your joy. **Inspire us with God's vision.**
Come, O Holy Spirit. **We need you. The world needs you. Amen.**

After Confession: *VU 948* O God hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer: when I call answer me. O God hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

Words of Assurance

We would raise our hallelujahs for the grace of yesteryears, for tomorrow's unknown pathway God hears our humble prayers. In the church's pilgrim journey Christ has led us all the way, still in presence he moves before us, fire by night and cloud by day.

Response: *VU 100 v5* We praise you God source of all life, we praise you Christ eternal Word, we praise you Spirit gracious gift; your triune presence fills our world.

Children's Time

HYMN: VU 195 On Pentecost They Gathered (tune VU 164)

First Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-21

This is the story of God's people. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 104 VU 826 Part Two

Gospel John 20:19-23

This is the story of Jesus. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

HYMN: VU 595 We Are Pilgrims

Minute for Mission, Prayers of the People

Offering Invitation: We have witnessed the fruits of God's Spirit, in the faithful ancestors who came before us building the church, in the seeking of reconciliation, and in the works done for justice. We have witnessed God's blessings, in communities gathered sharing love, grace and resources for the flourishing of all. With thanksgiving and joy, we present our offerings this day for what has been and what will come.

Offertory Hymn: *VU 537* Your work O God needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share. Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

Offering Prayer: Holy One, you breathe hope into our midst. You remind us that a church is not a building, but that You can be found anywhere that your people gather to worship and to share the Good News. We thank you for those times in which your presence has been strongly felt within this community of faith. These moments give us powerful reminders that you are always with us, an unfailing presence, patiently waiting for us to turn to you and generously encouraging us in your way. We are not alone; thanks be to God.