

**Offertory Prayer** It is astounding, Merciful God, that small gifts mean so much in your great heart of acceptance. Here we are giving a small portion of our resources, and yet you receive them as if it were our entirety. Bless these offerings and transform our full selves into instruments of compassion and love. We ask in the name of the Resurrected One. Amen.

**Prayers of the People, The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** VU 639 One more step along the world I go

**To Depart in Faith**

**Commissioning and Benediction** The gift of God's promise be within you, growing and vibrant as a child. The grace of God's gifts be within you, the power to heal and to bless. The authority of the Word be within you, the courage to love and to do justice. The Spirit of God be within you, the strength to make you serve, and the joy to make you laugh. Amen

**VU424 May the God of hope go with us everyday, 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.**

Scripture readings for June 21 2026

Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39

***Sunday June 28, 2026 Service at Union Point, 10am***

**Meridian Pastoral Charge**

June 14, 2026

**Avonlea United Church, Domain MB**

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Welcome and Announcements

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Acknowledging the Territory**

Here at Avonlea United, we recognize that we share this land with the first inhabitants of this area, the First Nations of Treaty 1 and the Red River Métis, with whom we seek to live in harmony on this land and all of its inhabitants. **We are all treaty people.**

**Introit:** *MV 156* **Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin', walk with the Spirit throughout the long day. Work and hope for the new life a-born'in, listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

**Call to Worship**

Come all, pay attention! God is calling. Join in the journey!

**We're on the path where love grows and all belong.**

The Comforter guides us gently and awakens us to the Holy Presence within, a presence of tender love and acceptance.

**We're on the path where love grows and all belong.**

It is our Creator who wants us to engage, and we, the people, are created for the journey! Let's worship with full hearts, knowing we are welcome, we are called, we are precious in God's sight.

**We're on the path where love grows and all belong.**

**Christ Candle** Light is so precious in our lives. In the midst of this summer season, we are well aware that plants need light to grow and so we need light to live! Even as daylight lengthens, we count on light to guide our daily rhythms. Into this reality comes Jesus Christ, light and love for us all. **May Christ's light guide us toward the eternal light of hope, grace, and love.**

**Prayer of Approach** O God for whom no one is too small to notice and love, we come now into your presence with bodies, minds, and spirits that are tired from work, tired from the business of living, tired from dealing with illness and grief, tired from the challenges life throws our way. Refresh us, we pray, and restore us, that we may discover with renewed senses the directions you would have us take. Amen.

**HYMN:** VU 333 Love Divine all loves excelling

### **Prayer of Confession**

**There are so many temptations in our world, O God, so many distractions from your way of self-giving wholeness. At every turn, there seems to be another saviour with easy solutions.**

We yearn for ease, for simplicity, for resolution, for certainty, but too often those paths are not the answer.

**Move within our hearts, we pray, that we follow courageously where you lead, that we set our mind for ever-evolving understanding, that we engage our souls within your healing power.**

**After Confession:** *VU 661v1* O Come to my heart Lord Jesus, teach me to walk in your way. Come to by heart Lord Jesus, come to my heart today. Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring. Come to my heart Lord Jesus, give me a song to sing.

### **Words of Assurance**

Jesus lived just as we live—

distracted by temptations and lured away from his central purpose.

Yet Jesus' central purpose was identical to God's: to give of himself in love and to receive love in return, making all things new.

In this relationship of love, the risen Christ meets us, affirms us, and embraces us. In that overwhelming, unconditional, and abundant embrace of love, we are transformed. As we start anew, we give thanks and praise to God.

**Response: VU 218v3** With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us, to You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

### **Story Time**

**Hymn:** VU 345 Come, Children, Join to Sing

**Reading:** Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

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

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 116 VU 836

**Reading: Matthew 9:35-10:8**

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

### **To Respond to the Word of God**

#### **Reflection**

**Hymn:** MV 79 Spirit Open my Heart

#### **Minute for Mission**

**Offertory Invitation** God's Spirit equips Jesus' followers to bring healing and hope to the world God loves. The gifts we offer God are tangible signs of that healing and hope at work in us and through us, for the sake of Christ our Lord.

**Offertory Hymn** VU 538 **For the gift of creation, the gift of your love, and the gift of the Spirit by which we live, we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands. May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**