

Prayers of the People, The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 330 Jesus Shall Reign

To Depart in Faith

Commissioning and Benediction

Go into God's good creation praying that the Spirit will open our minds to receive truth, open our hearts to seek peace, and strengthen our bodies to work for justice.

Let the Spirit guide you in ways of love and justice, to walk lightly and humbly and seek truth, reconciliation, healing, and wholeness.

And may the blessing of Creator, Christ and Spirit rest upon you this day and every day.

Closing VU 416 **Forth in Thy name O Lord I go, my daily labour to pursue. Thee only Thee resolved to know, in all I think or speak or do.**

Scripture readings for October 4 2026

Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46

Food Drive: we are collecting non-perishable food items in the lead up to Thanksgiving. Please be generous!

Manitoba Harvest volunteer dates: October 5 & 26, November 16 & 30, December 14, January 11 & 25, February 8 & 22, March 8 & 22

Canada Foodgrains Bank invites you to join us **at Prairie Spirit United Church on Thursday, October 29 at 11:00 a.m.** for a special presentation by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Solomon Mwacheza, who works with farmers in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, will share stories about the Foodgrains Bank's work in other parts of the world and how farmers are strengthening their livelihoods and adapting to changing conditions. Lunch will follow the presentation. **If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Linda Uhrich at lindauhrich@gmail.com or call 204-832-1000.**

Meridian Pastoral Charge

September 27 2026

Sanford United Church, Sanford MB

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Welcome and Announcements

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Acknowledging the Territory

Since people first travelled this land we now call Canada, it has been faithfully stewarded. Plants for medicine, animals for clothing and food, fish, forests, lakes, rivers, mountains and prairies. Fresh air to breathe. A great land of abundance. We give thanks to the First Nations of Treaty 1 and the Red River Metis. Together may we do our part to be good stewards of the land.

Introit: VU 401 Worship the Lord (worship the Lord), worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son, raising our hands (raising our hands) in devotion to God who is one!

Call to Worship

We come to worship because we love God.

All creation praises God's goodness and love.

We come to worship seeking healing and wholeness.

Through God's son, compassion, love, and grace flow in abundance.

We come to worship, yearning to be transformed:

Guided by the Spirit of God, we work to build a more peaceful and just world.

Let us worship God together!

Christ Candle Dawn arrives later each morning as we head into the colourful days of fall. Dusk arrives earlier each evening as the days shorten. Into the growing shadows of night comes the ever-bright

light from one single candle reminding us that Christ is the light of the world. We light the Christ candle with gratitude and humility.

Prayer of Approach:

Steadfast God, as the seasons change, we see that you are still at work in the world, transforming hearts and situations.

You have shown us the true face of love in Jesus Christ, reaching out with healing and hope to those who are hurting, lost or alone.

We praise you for your love that works for respect, connection and peace among neighbours and nations in this divided world.

May we see the face of Jesus in each person we meet.

Renew our hope by the gift of your Spirit at work among us, so that we can live to praise you

with the whole Church that bears Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN: VU 315 Holy Holy Holy

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus. Mould our lives into an offering to you and a joy for us, for we yearn to be like Jesus. May your Spirit so infuse the life of this church that we may be empowered to follow Jesus Christ, offering our lives, our service, and our gifts.

After Confession: *MV 115* O Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today. Behold, behold, I make all things new, my promise is true, for I am Christ the way!

Words of Assurance

Jesus, the Holy One, emptied himself to make room for us.

In our empty places, our wounds and losses, Christ become obedient even to death, and raises us up to life everlasting. Through God's grace, we open our hearts to Jesus.

Response: VU 100v5 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.

Story Time

Hymn: VU 624 Give us to Laughter

Reading: **Philippians 2:1-13**

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 78 VU 792

Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

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

To Respond to the Word of God

Reflection

Hymn: MV 120 My Soul Cries out

Minute for Mission

Offertory Invitation Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth, that they may be shared for the healing and wholeness of God's world.

Offertory Hymn VU 581 Through all our living, we our frusts must give. Good works of service are for offering. When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Offertory Prayer Generous God, we have received so much from you in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we offer so that they will speak of your love for the world in all its detail and diversity. Amen.