Prayers of the People, The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 256 O God beyond all praising

To Depart in Faith

Commissioning and Benediction

Go in faithfulness, cherishing the lessons of love you have learned from Christ and his people, so that your life will speak with that love. And may God, the Source of Love, Christ, the Face of Love, and the Spirit of Love in action
bless you now, and go with you into each new day. Amen.

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 25 2026

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46

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

Save the Date! Meridian Inter-Church Advent Service: Sunday November 29 7pm at La Salle Community Fellowship Church.

Meridian Pastoral Charge

October 18 2026

Sanford United Church, Sanford MB

204-736-2978(office) www.meridian-pastoral-charge.ca
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Welcome and Announcements

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Acknowledging the Territory

We acknowledge that we are gathered on Treaty 1 Territory and the Homeland of the Red River Metis. For thousands of years, the First Peoples of this place have cared for the land even as the land cared for them. Guided by the wisdom of their traditions and their ancestors, they have been taught that the circle of life is embraced and embracing. **Let us carry on this wisdom. Let us live into right relations with love and respect.**

Introit: *VU 226 (Tune VU 81)* **For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies, God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Call to Worship

Like the peoples long ago, we are journeying in stages.
Our lives unfold, not all at once but piece by piece.
Sometimes the forward movement is small.
Sometimes we may feel we are being called to take enormous leaps in faith.
On all days of the journey, we know that God is with us.
Thanks be to God.

Christ Candle

God of love, you hold our hearts in your hands.
God of love, you hold our lives in your light.
God of love, you hold our presence in your care.
We are still, and we listen for your voice. **Amen.**

Prayer of Approach:
**Lord Jesus, we meet with You in this community today.
Give us what we need this day and always
so that we can share Your love with others
and show them the way to Your peace and glory. Heavenly Father, thank You for Your divine wisdom. When the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus, He answered with perfect grace and truth.
Lord, today, be in our hearts and our thinking
and as Jesus pointed out Caesar's image on the coin,
may we recognise that Your image is stamped upon our very souls. May we pass on that love and reassurance to the people we meet every day. Help us find ways of living faithfully in this world. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.**

HYMN: VU 217 All Creatures of our God and King

Prayer of Confession
In gratitude for God's love, in recognition of how we are made new each day, let us open our hearts to God's heart in silent communion, seeking that same grace as the ground of our being.
A time of silent reflection…

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
While the "church" leaders of his day tried to trip him up with questions of paying tribute to Caesar, he turned the question around. He told them it was okay to give the coins to the person whose image was on the coin. But our lives bear the image of the Creator and must be given to God. It is a task that may seem altogether too difficult for us, but Jesus has showed us the way: love one another as I have loved you. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. **Thanks be to God!**

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 345 Come Children Join to Sing

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
This is the story of God's people. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 96 VU 816

Reading: Matthew 22:15-22
This is the story of Jesus **All: Thanks be to God.**

To Respond to the Word of God

Reflection

Hymn: VU 626 I Heard the Voice of Jesus

Minute for Mission

Offertory Invitation Jesus reminds us to give to God the things that are God's. God has been so generous to us, that truly we owe God our lives. Let us return to God what God has shared with us, so that God's goodness can spread in the world in the name of Jesus.

Offertory Hymn VU 581 Through all our living, we our fruits 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 **God of abundance, we bring what we have to share, a portion of your goodness to us. Bless our gifts and our lives, so that generosity and justice will join hands, and your goodness touches those in need, in Jesus' name.**