Offertory Prayer **Gracious One, we are grateful for peace within, and for peace with justice in the world around. We offer our gifts and we offer our lives in support of the work of peace in our community and in our world. In the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of the People, The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 424 May the God of Hope

To Depart in Faith

Commissioning and Benediction

Receive the breath of reconciling peace given to the church.
Peace within, peace in our midst.
Peace given for the well-being of the world.
Receive the peace of Christ and carry it out into the world.

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 November 15 2026

Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

Manitoba Harvest volunteer dates: 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. **Our joint choir is sharing a song. Practices Nov 19 & 26, 7pm in Sanford.**

Meridian Pastoral Charge

November 8 20206

Avonlea United Church, Domain MB

204-736-2978(office) www.meridian-pastoral-charge.ca
reverendjdebeer@gmail.com (204) 461-4665

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: *MV 82 (v 1)* **Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator; let is shine upon my soul with healing and with grace. Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding, showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.**

Call to Worship

'Wisdom shines bright and never grows dim.
Wisdom begins with the sincere desire to learn.'
During this time of remembrance, what will we dream of with God?
We dream of a world free from war.
We dream of people learning the ways of peace.
We dream of God's wisdom alive in human hearts and minds.
So help us God, as we come to You in worship.

Christ Candle We gather in the light of Christ to understand more clearly the sacrifices that war has required, to honour those who have made them, and to pray for a time when they will never be required again. **As we light our candle today, we especially pray for the cessation of all war and conflict. Pour out your peace, O Christ, on all your people.**

Prayer of Approach:
God of autumn days, with us in the lengthening nights, faithfully loving this revolving earth, we know You are near when peace breaks out. **This is Your desire –that we do not live in fear; that we are not suspicious or scathing of each other; that we live well, side by side, respecting and making room for each other.**
Thank You God, for all that we enjoy when peace breaks out.
This is Your design –that we live best in relationship; that we are trusting and kind to each other, that we co-operate, side by side, listening and giving ground to each other.
Thank You God, for all that satisfies us when peace breaks out.
Thank You especially for Your friendship and commitment to us. So, as best we can, we trust You, we turn to You, we find You waiting to welcome us again. Peace breaks out and with You beside us we can face whatever comes. Amen

HYMN: VU 806 O God Our Help in Ages Past

Prayer of Confession
Source of Life, we are grateful for your faithfulness, for your abiding love, and for the inspiration of the Spirit.
Even when we slip and fall, you tenderly pick us up and whisper in our ear, "Keep going."
We are your beloved. May we reflect your love to the world.
May you give us strength when we are weary and hope when we despair.
Give us courage when we are afraid and perseverance when we want to give up. Guide us in our journey through this world you love so much. **May we be like billions of candles lighting up the world with your compassion, forgiveness, justice, wisdom, and peace.**

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 We attend like wise bridesmaids with extra oil in our lamps -filled with patience, love and wisdom, blessed by God to be servants of peace.

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: MV 10 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom *(Tune VU 686)*

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-28
This is the story of God's people. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 78 VU 792

Reading: Matthew 25:1-13
This is the story of Jesus **All: Thanks be to God.**

To Respond to the Word of God

Reflection

Hymn: VU 507 Today We All are called to be Disciples

Minute for Mission

Offertory Invitation For flashes of peace, moments when God's shalom is visible in words of kindness and support, in acts of justice and compassion, when people and nations choose to trust one another, when we find peace within our hearts and lives, we give thanks to God. And we give thanks to God through the gifts of our offering.

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.