Offering 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: 806 O God our Help in Ages Past (A5.40)

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 884 You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; they'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands! And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, the trees of the field will clap their hands, the trees of the field will clap their hands, while you go out with joy!

Scripture readings for November 15 2026

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

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 2026

Starbuck United Church, Starbuck MB

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

Welcome and Announcements.

Acknowledgement

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.**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Introit: 395 **Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family. We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.**

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: 703 In the Bulb there is a flower (B5.17)

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: *VU 662* Lead me God, lead me in your righteousness, make your way plain before my face. For it is you, and you God only, who makes me to dwell in safety.

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: 958 **Halle Halle Halle lujah!**

HYMN: 266 Amazing Grace (A5.28)

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

Responsive Reading Psalm 78 VU 792

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

To Respond to the Word of God

Reflection

HYMN: 436 Abide with me (B5.75)

Minute for Mission

Offering 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 541* Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love made known: Creator, Word and Spirit, One.