

Stettler United Church



BESTOGETHER

We are United Churches at Big Valley, Erskine and Stettler.

Date: June 7, 2026
Second after Pentecost
Theme: A Spiritual Pioneer

Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon

Musician: Linda Kneeland

Audio/Visual: Holly McKenzie or Nora Nixon

(*: Please, stand if you are able.)

Musical Prelude

Greetings

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Response: And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements (Care & Concerns)

- **Rev. Kwon is out** of the office Tuesday June 9th
- **Sing-A-Long with** Rev. Kwon ~ Friday June 26, 2026

Acknowledgement of Territory

ALL: God calls us to live with respect and care for all our relations in creation. For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples of this area have tended the earth, and we give thanks for such diligence. We covenant to live and work together, sharing this land in peace and respect as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows.

Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane AB

Call to Worship

God declared through the prophet Hosea: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice."

For our God is just, and, more important, forgiving; holy and infinite, but, more important, compassionate.

The Holy and Compassionate One touches us through the hand of Jesus, inspires us through the word of Jesus, and heals us through the Spirit of Jesus.

With gratitude and joy, we welcome Christ's presence. With soaring hearts, we worship our God.

Rod Sykes, Calgary, Alta. Gathering, Pentecost 1 2026, 38. Used with Permission.

Light the Christ Candle

ALL: We light this candle as a symbol of our intention to be open and attentive to God's presence and guidance during our time of worship.

Christine LeBlanc, East End United Regional Ministry, Toronto, Ont. Gathering, Pentecost 1 2026, 37. Used with Permission.

***Hymn Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet VU#245**

Words, Music: Natalie Sleeth © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc. Used by permission. Words, Music: Hinshaw Music, Inc. CCLI, OneLicense.net

Opening Prayer

Holy God, from age to age, we sing your blessing and praise your name.

We give thanks to you, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.

In the fullness of time, you came among us in compassion made flesh.

Jesus dined with sinners, told stories about restored relationships, healed those whose illnesses made them outcasts from the world.

Through his cross, we discover the depth of your redeeming love, a love that saves us all.

And so together we gather and sing your praise and live your love and mercy in our world today. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, redeemer and friend. Amen.

Frances Flook, Emo/Devlin P.C., Emo, Ont. Gathering, Pentecost 1 2026, 42. Used with Permission.

Prayer of Confession

We think we are so advanced, that our lives are so much more complex than they used to be.

We have a hard time identifying with the people of Jesus' day who travelled everywhere, usually by foot, on dusty roads, who didn't need closets for their clothes, who cooked each meal over an open fire.

Yet, O Lord, we are so like the people you met in Galilee.

We are frantic for our children's welfare, just like the leader who knelt before Jesus. We are aware of personal need for healing and cleansing, like the woman with the hemorrhage. Just like some in the crowd, we can be unkind and disrespectful to you and others because of what we think is right.

Forgive us, Lord.

Help us to trust your love for us as Matthew the tax collector did. Help us to trust your power to heal and save, as the leader and the woman did. Help us to dare to step out of our rightness and into your righteousness. For you came and come today to seek and save even us. Amen.

Carol E. Bayma, Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia. Gathering, Pentecost 1 2026, 44. Used with Permission.

***Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling VU#333**

Words: Charles Wesley. Music: Rowland Huw Prichard. Public Domain. N/A

Prayer of Illumination

ALL: Ancient words, ancient stories, speak to our hearts today.

Gary Simpson, McDougall U.C., Edmonton, Alta. Gathering, Pentecost 1 2026, 48. Used with Permission.

Scripture Readings: Malcolm Fischer

Genesis 12:1–9: Call of Abraham.

Matthew 9:9–13: Call of Matthew.

Special Music Malcolm Fischer

Hymn *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* VU#357 (verse 1)

(being seated)

Words: William H. Parker 1885, Music: Fredrick Arthur Challinor 1903 © 1904 National Christian Education Council, 1020 Bristol Rd., Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LB, England. Reproduced with permission. Words, Music: National Christian Education Council. CCLI.

Congregational Theme/Story Time

Message Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn *Let Us Break Bread Together* VU#480

Words, Music: African-American spiritual. Harmony: © 1971 F.R.C. Clarke. Words, Music: Public Domain. Harmony: F.R.C. Clarke. N/A

Call to Give Thanks

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada, Etobicoke, Ont. The United Church Publishing House, 2000, 252.

The Great Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all life,
Source of love.

In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and your Word brought all things into being. Through a burning bush, you spoke to your prophets and your people. With glowing coals you touched their lips, that they might speak your word of truth and justice. By fire and your Spirit, you have guided us through the wilderness.

We give you thanks and praise, O God of wind and word, power and peace.

Lover of all nations, although we have so often betrayed your promise, you have never left us nor forsaken us. You sent us Jesus, your Gift of Grace, our Light and Flame. You poured out your Spirit upon us, to create, renew, inspire, that all might be made whole.

We bless you, for your Spirit wraps us in your presence, drawing us closer in community.

And so it is that on this feast of Pentecost, we give you praise and thanks for your many gifts, joining with all your people that as one body we may proclaim your praise.

Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada, Etobicoke, Ont. The United Church Publishing House, 2000, 279-280.

Song of Creation (Sanctus-Benedictus) together

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts! Heaven and earth are full of your glory! Heaven and earth praise you, O God most high!

Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada, Etobicoke, Ont. The United Church Publishing House, 2000, 285.

Institution Narrative

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to those who sat with him, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada, Etobicoke, Ont. The United Church Publishing House, 2000, 286.

Prayer of Self-Giving

ALL: Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada, Etobicoke, Ont. The United Church Publishing House, 2000, 290.

Affirmation of Memory and Hope (Memorial Acclamation)

Praise o you, Lord Jesus Christ:

Dying, Christ destroyed our death. Rising, Christ restored our life. Christ will come in glory.

Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada, Etobicoke, Ont. The United Church Publishing House, 2000, 291.

Prayer for Transformation (Epiclesis)

Holy God, we pray for your Spirit.

Make us, while many, one. Make us, though broken, whole.

Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada, Etobicoke, Ont. The United Church Publishing House, 2000, 293.

Concluding Praise (Doxology)

ALL: Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three. Praise now! Praise tomorrow! Praise forever!

Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada, Etobicoke, Ont. The United Church Publishing House, 2000, 296.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray together saying:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Fraction and Pouring / Distribution

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

Jesus Christ, the True Vine.

Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada, Etobicoke, Ont. The United Church Publishing House, 2000, 298.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name, we pray.

Amen.

Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada, Etobicoke, Ont. The United Church Publishing House, 2000, 303.

Invitation for Offering

Offering Hymn *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

VU#541 Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674. Music: Genevan Psalter 1551. Public Domain. N/A

Offering 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.

Laura J. Turnbull, Penticton, B.C. Gathering, Pentecost 1 2026, 29. Used with Permission.

Prayers of the Gathered Community

Special Announcement ~ Betty Birch

***Hymn *Lead On, O Cloud of Presence* VU#421**

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***Commissioning and Benediction**

***Threefold Amen (Unison) VU#967**

Postlude