

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 13, 2020
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

OUR MISSION: Christ calls us to be faithful disciples who strive to be joyful in our worship, tender in our life together, and daring in our outreach.

We acknowledge we worship on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional homeland of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the Métis Nation.

Minister: The Rev. Amanda Currie
Musicians Today: Bill Sgrazzutti & Graeme Mitchell

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude and Welcome

Call to Worship:

People of God, bless the Lord,
bless God's holy name.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love for us.

Prayer of Approach

Hymn: Praise, my soul, the King of heaven #407

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

Loving God,
we confess that we have failed to live in harmony
with our sisters and brothers.

We have been self-righteous in our attitudes,
closed-minded in our beliefs,
and judgmental in our opinions.

We have shunned those
whose ways we do not understand,
and we have despised those
who do not endorse our convictions.

Forgive our sins of discord and conceit,
and heal our divisiveness and quarreling.

Help us to be charitable in our regard for others
that we may dwell in peace with Christ,
who is Lord of all. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

Hymn: God forgave my sin / Freely, freely #774

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ministry of Music "The Lord's Prayer" Albert Hay Malotte

Sermon *A Whole New Way*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Help us accept each other #632

Prayers of the People

Loving God, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen.

We Present our Gifts to God

Offertory

Doxology (#830) and Prayer of Dedication:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Hymn: Where charity and love prevail #692

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amen (#780): **Amen, amen, amen.**

Aaronic Blessing (#619):

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you his peace.**

Postlude

HYMNS for Sunday September 13th

#407 - Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him, still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless;
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone,
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise the high eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore him,
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space,
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise with us the God of grace.

#774 - God forgave my sin / Freely, freely

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his love as he told me to.

Refrain: He said: "Freely, freely you have received;
freely, freely give.
Go in my name and because you believe,
others will know that I live."

All power is given in Jesus' name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his power as he told me to. *Refrain*

#632 - Help us accept each other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all-not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

#692 - Where charity and love prevail

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear, God's charity we learn; let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess; and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease; be God's the glory that we seek; be ours God's holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son; as members of his body joined, we are in Christ made one.

No race nor creed can love exclude, if honoured by God's name; our family embraces all whose Father is the same.

This Week at First Church

Sun. Sept. 13	10:30 am	Worship (online)
	1:30 pm	Half an Hour of Hymns (online)
	2:00 pm	Coffee Hour by Zoom
Wed. Sept. 16	7:00 pm	Board of Managers (Zoom)
Thurs. Sept. 17	7:00 pm	Volunteer Orientation for Re-opening
Sat. Sept. 19	10:00 am	Presbytery by Zoom
Sun. Sept. 20	10:30 am	Worship (in person & online)
	2:00 pm	Coffee Hour by Zoom

First Church Fellowship by Zoom Video Conference

Everyone is invited to join with First Church friends for fellowship and connection using Zoom video conferences every week: **All Zoom links are sent out by email. If you don't receive the Zoom links you need, email, text, or phone Amanda.**

Half an Hour of Hymns!

How can we keep from singing? Even with the challenges of the pandemic, we are grateful for God's blessings today and the gift of hope for the future. Join us for "Half an Hour of Hymns" at 1:30 pm today (Sunday, Sept. 13th) live on the FirstPresbyterian Regina Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresregina1925>

The video will later be posted at www.curriejesson.ca
The theme of the hymn sing today will be the healing of our world. As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues, we will be praying for health care workers, researchers developing vaccines, and for the healing of our communities.

Welcome Back to Church:

Sunday, September 20th at 10:30 am

Dear First Church Family, After thoughtful consideration and careful planning, the Session of First Church would like to welcome you back to in-person worship in the sanctuary starting on Sunday, September 20th.

Please note: Even though we are beginning to worship in the sanctuary again, we will continue to livestream the services on Facebook so that anyone unable to attend is able to watch live online or at a later time.

Here are a few things you need to know about in-person worship at First Church as the pandemic continues:

1. We are opening carefully, having studied and implemented the guidelines for places of worship that are set by the provincial health authority. This includes additional cleaning and sanitizing, physical

- distancing, use of masks, screening, and adapting activities to reduce risks. We recognize that it will feel different from our normal worship, but it will be good to see one another and to worship together in-person in our sanctuary.
2. Please stay home if you are sick, if you have been travelling outside the country in the last 14 days, or if you have been in contact with someone who may have COVID-19.
 3. If you are medically vulnerable, please consider delaying your return to church until there is a vaccine. Please continue to watch online. We care about your health and safety, so do not feel pressure to return until it is safe and comfortable for you.
 4. Register to attend by phoning Shirley in the church office (306-522-9571) or emailing (firstpresregina@sasktel.net) by Friday morning each week. This will help us to plan for Sunday morning, but you will still be welcomed at worship even if you did not register in advance.
 5. Bulletins that include the order of worship and announcements will be sent out by email on Fridays. Print a copy and bring it with you if you would like to. Everything will also be projected on the wall at the front of the church, so a bulletin is not essential.
 6. Arrive 15 minutes earlier than you normally would in order to facilitate the seating process.
 7. Please wear a non-medical mask. Everyone will be wearing masks while inside the building. Amanda will take her mask off to lead in prayer and to preach from the pulpit, but we will all wear masks for singing. (We will have disposal masks available at the registration desk for anyone who does not have one.)
 8. Enter using the Albert Street door only, where you will be welcomed, registered, and asked the health and travel questions. There may be a line-up to enter, so maintain physical distance while you wait for your turn.
 9. If you want to bring your offering envelope to worship, you can leave it in the plate at the registration table. The offerings will be presented during worship as we sing the doxology. Of course, you can continue to use PAR, e-transfers, or mail in your offering if you prefer.
 10. After checking in, you'll use the hand sanitizer provided, and then proceed up the stairs (or the lift) to the narthex. An usher will guide you to a seat. We will be using every third pew and sitting in household groups with at least 2 metres distancing between households. Once you are seated, please stay in your pew for the duration of the service.
 11. Children are welcome. There will be a children's message (delivered from a distance) so that children will stay with their families. Sunday School will be resuming soon, but most likely in an online format.
 12. Washrooms will be available for urgent need only.
 13. Sharing food continues to be a very high-risk activity, so we will not have a coffee hour after the service.
 14. Following worship, please follow the direction of the ushers to exit by the 14th Avenue door while keeping physical distancing. Please use the available hand sanitizer again before you leave the church. Only those needing to use the lift will be exiting by the Albert Street door.

Fall Office Hours:

Shirley Durell, our Office Administrator, has returned to regular office hours as follows: Mondays: 8:30 – 11:00 am
Wednesday to Friday: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. Contact Shirley at the office at 306-522-9571 or firstpresregina@sasktel.net.

Rev. Amanda Currie is mostly working from her office at the church these days as well. You can continue to reach her by phone or text message (306-580-8095) or by email (revfpc@sasktel.net). A physically-distanced pastoral visit is always possible, as well as a phone call or Zoom video call.