

**Kindred Spirits Worship
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2026**

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES

One:

Called to live with respect in Creation
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler, and Newcomer peoples,
we acknowledge that the land on which we worship, work, learn, and serve,
and the water which sustains life on this land,
is of God, Creator,
and in the farthest reaches of memory
was entrusted to the original peoples who walked this land,
and to their descendants.

One:

With the coming of colonizers,
treaties were made,
but again and again the treaties were broken,
causing deep and lasting harm
to the historic caregivers of the land,
to the generations that followed them,
and to the land itself.

All:

**Called to action for Truth and Reconciliation,
we who gather here on Treaty One territory
and the homeland of the Red River Metis
commit ourselves to faithful ways
of honoring the treaties, the land, and one another
in a spirit of open-hearted respect.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT

Welcome to worship. Today we gather as one community of faith, united in Christ and strengthened by the Spirit. Jesus prayed that his followers would be one in love, purpose, and compassion. In a world often divided by fear, conflict, and isolation, God calls us to become a people of reconciliation, welcoming, and united. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God calls us from many places and many walks of life.

All: We come as one people, united in Christ.

One: God calls us each by name.

All: We are loved, welcomed, and needed.

One: Christ calls us into ministry together.

All: We will serve with compassion and joy.

One: The Spirit gathers us into one community of faith.

All: Let us worship God in unity and love.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving and gracious God, we thank you for calling us together as your people. In Christ, you remind us that no one walks alone. You gather us from different backgrounds, experiences, and journeys, and you make us one community of faith. Open our hearts to one another. Teach us to listen with compassion, to serve with humility, and to love without condition. May this time of worship strengthen the bonds we share and inspire us to draw the circle wider, so that all may know your welcome and peace. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN MV#161 I Have Called You by Your Name

MOMENT TO PONDER

What makes a community strong? Sometimes it is not grand programs or perfect people. Often, it is simple acts of kindness, understanding, patience, and care. A community becomes strong when people know they belong.

Before his ascension, Jesus prayed for his disciples and for all who would follow after them. His prayer was simple yet powerful: “that they may all be one.” Jesus understood that the strength of the church would not come from power or wealth, but from unity, love, and shared purpose.

He gathered disciples, friends, neighbors, strangers, and seekers. He created a community where people were welcomed, valued, and loved.

Today, many people long for connections. Some feel isolated, unheard, or forgotten. As followers of Christ, we are called to build communities where people feel safe, respected, and embraced.

The church is more than a building. It is people walking together in faith. When we pray together, serve together, forgive one another, and support one another, we become signs of God’s love in the world.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Acts 1:6–14, John 17:1–11

HYMN#377 Holy Spirit, Hear Us

REFLECTION

HYMN VU#510 We Have This Ministry

OFFERING INVITATION

God has blessed us with gifts, relationships, and community. In gratitude, we offer ourselves and our resources so that the ministry of welcome, compassion, and unity may continue. Let us present our gifts to God.

DOXOLOGY MV#191 What Can I Do?

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, receive these gifts and use them to strengthen your church, serve your people, and bring hope to the world. May our giving reflect our desire to build communities of love, justice, peace, and belonging. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

CENTERING MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of community. We thank you for the people who encourage us, support us, and walk beside us in times of joy and struggle.

Help us to become a community that reflects your love. Where there is division, bring understanding. Where there is loneliness, bring companionship. Where there is hurt, bring healing. Where there is fear, bring peace.

We pray for your church throughout the world. May your people work together in unity and compassion. Strengthen all who serve others through ministries of care, justice, and hope.

We pray for our local community, for neighbors in need, for families facing difficulties, for those who are grieving, for those struggling with illness, and for all who long for belonging and support.

Teach us to follow the example of Christ, who welcomed all people with grace and love. May we continue to draw the circle wide.

Trusting in your mercy and love, we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER ~ HYMN VU#916 ~ sung

HYMN VU#567 Will You Come and Follow Me

COMMISSIONING

Go now as people called by name, united in faith, and strengthened by God's love. Go to build communities of welcome, care, justice, and compassion. Walk together in peace. Support one another in hope. And may your lives reflect the love of Christ wherever you go.

CHORAL BLESSING MV#145

Draw the Circle Wide

POSTLUDE