

**Kindred Spirits Worship
Twenty First after Pentecost
October 18, 2026
World Food Sunday**

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 ANNOUNCEMENT

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

We light this candle as a reminder of the presence of Christ among us. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world." May the light of Christ guide our hearts, strengthen our faith, and inspire us to bring hope, compassion, and nourishment to a hungry world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us worship God with joyful hearts.

All: We gather to praise God and give thanks for God's goodness.

One: Let us open our hearts to God's love and grace.

All: We come ready to worship, learn, and grow in faith.

One: Let us rejoice in the presence of our Creator.

All: We worship God with gratitude, love, and hope.

One: Let our worship draw us closer to God and to one another.

All: May our hearts be renewed, and our lives reflect God's love. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER- All

Generous and loving Creator, we come before you with grateful hearts. Thank you for the gift of life, the beauty of Creation, the work of human hands, and the food that sustains us each day. On this World Food Sunday, we remember people who go to bed hungry, families who struggle to put food on the table, farmers who work tirelessly to grow our food, and communities whose access to food is threatened by poverty, conflict, and injustice. Open our eyes to see the needs around us. Open our hearts to respond with compassion. Teach us to use our resources wisely and to share what we have with generosity. As we worship today, may your Word challenge us, your Spirit renew us, and your love guide us

**into faithful action. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
Amen.**

PASS THE PEACE – Bienvenue (French word for 'welcome')

OPENING HYMN MV#37 Each Blade of Grass

MOMENT TO PONDER

Sometimes we enjoy the food on our tables without thinking about the many people who go to bed hungry. We may take our daily meals for granted, forgetting that food is a precious gift and that many people around the world struggle to find enough to eat.

On this World Food Sunday, we are reminded that God has blessed the earth with resources to nourish humanity. The land produces food, the rain waters the soil, and the hands of farmers, fishers, and many other workers help bring food to our tables. Yet, despite these blessings, hunger remains a daily reality for many people.

This reminds us that gratitude is more than saying thank you to God. True gratitude also calls us to care for others. When we have enough to eat, we can remember those who do not. When our tables are full, we can look for ways to help those whose tables are empty. When we receive God's blessings, we can become a blessing to someone else.

As we gather today, let us remember that we are part of a wider human family. Our neighbors may be struggling with the rising cost of food, families may be worried about putting meals on the table, and some people in our community may be silently experiencing hunger. We may not be able to solve every problem, but we can make a difference through kindness, generosity, and practical acts of sharing.

So, let us ask ourselves: Am I truly grateful for the food I receive each day? How can I help someone who is struggling to have enough to eat? How can our congregations become instruments of God's love in a world where many people are hungry?

May we never forget that the food we enjoy is a gift, and that sharing what we have is one way of expressing our love for God and our neighbors.

Let us take a quiet moment to reflect on the blessings on our tables, remember those who are hungry, and consider how we can share God's goodness with others.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 22:15–22

CHOIR ANTHEM “Sing to the Lord”

REFLECTION

HYMN VU#507 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

OFFERING INVITATION

Friends, all that we have comes from God, and on this World Food Sunday, our offering is an opportunity to express our gratitude and participate in God's work of compassion and justice. Let us give joyfully and generously, remembering that everything we have is entrusted to us by God.

DOXOLOGY VU#542 We Give You but Your Own

PRAYER OF DEDICATION- All

Generous Creator, we dedicate these gifts to your service. Bless the money we give, the time we offer, and the talents we share. May these offerings strengthen your church, support those experiencing hardship, and contribute to a world where food, dignity, and hope are available to all. Help us to be faithful stewards of your abundance and willing instruments of your love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CENTERING MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Generous Creator, we come before you with grateful hearts. You have blessed the earth with fertile soil, fresh water, sunshine, and the resources needed to sustain life. Yet, even in a world of abundance, many people go to bed hungry. Hear our prayers as we remember those in need and ask for the courage to share your gifts with all.

All: Creator, hear our prayer, and teach us to share your gifts.

One: We pray for all who are hungry today: children who go to school without breakfast, families who struggle to put food on the table, and people who must choose between buying groceries, paying rent, and meeting other basic needs. May they find nourishment, support, and hope.

All: Creator, hear our prayer, and teach us to share your gifts.

One: We pray for farmers, fishers, farm workers, food producers, truck drivers, grocery workers, and all who work to bring food from the land and water to our tables. Bless their labor, protect their livelihoods, and grant favorable conditions for the production of food.

All: Creator, hear our prayer, and teach us to share your gifts.

One: We pray for food banks, community kitchens, shelters, volunteers, and organizations that serve people experiencing food insecurity. Strengthen their work, provide the resources they need, and encourage communities to respond with generosity and compassion.

All: Creator, hear our prayer, and teach us to share your gifts.

One: We pray for nations and communities affected by war, drought, flooding, poverty, and other crises that make food difficult to obtain. Guide leaders and decision-makers toward justice, peace, and fair food systems. May the resources of the earth be used to sustain life rather than to deepen suffering and inequality.

All: Creator, hear our prayer, and teach us to share your gifts.

One: We pray for our congregations at Immanuel United Church and John Black Memorial United Church. May Kindred Spirits be a place of welcome, kindness, and practical care. Open our eyes to the needs around us and show us how we can share our food, time, money, and talent with our neighbors.

All: Creator, hear our prayer, and teach us to share your gifts.

One: We pray for anyone among us who is facing hardship, loneliness, illness, uncertainty, and financial difficulty. Give them strength for today, people who will walk beside them, and the assurance that they are not alone.

All: Creator, hear our prayer, and teach us to share your gifts.

One: Loving Creator, receive the prayers we have spoken and those we hold silently in our hearts. As Jesus teaches us to give to God what belongs to God, remind us that our lives, our resources, and our gifts are entrusted to us for the good of all. Make us grateful in receiving, generous in giving, and faithful in serving. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Lord's Prayer- Our Father and Mother who is in the heavens (VU#916)(spoken)

HYMN VU#600 When I Needed a Neighbour

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

Go in peace to love and serve God, care for your neighbors, and share the gifts entrusted to you. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, our Creator, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and always.

CHORAL BLESSING MV#145 Draw the Circle Wide (Chorus, Verse 2, chorus)

POSTLUDE