



Strathmore United Church

October 18, 2026

Twenty-first after Pentecost

Rev. Maria Szabone Berces

Greetings & Welcome:

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

and also, with you.

Based on 2 Cor. 13:13

Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Written by Laura J. Turnbull; Gathering, Pentecost 2 2026; page 30; Used with permission

🎵 Centering Song: Come, Let Us Sing (Vs 1-3) *VU #222

Call to Worship:

What does God want from me?

To give God what is God's.

My time? My abilities? My money?

To give God what is God's.

My friends? My family? My life?

To give God what is God's.

My willingness to seek justice?

My ability to love kindness?

My desire to walk humbly with God?

All this, and more. We give to God what is God's.

May it always be so. Amen.

Written by Richard Bott; Gathering, Pentecost 2 2026; page 32; Used with permission

Opening Prayer:

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Story Time for All Ages:

🎵 Hymn: We Praise You, O God (Vs. 2-3) *VU #218

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance:

Written by Kate Crawford; Gathering, Pentecost 2 2026; page 35; Used with permission

Prayer of Illumination:

Written by Wendy MacLean; Gathering, Pentecost 2 2020; page 41; Used with permission

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 45:1–7

Matthew 22:15–22

L: A Word of God that is still speaking,

P: Thanks be to God.

Message:

 Hymn: *When We Are Living* ***VU #581**

The Offering Invitation:

God calls us: To respond in faith, to be stewards of great resources, to live responsibly and responsively, to share love and grace.

So let us present our offering this day including the offerings of hands, hearts, and lives.

Written by Beth W Johnson; Gathering, Pentecost 2 2020; page 42; Used with permission

M&S Story:

Remember that people of faith have been the key to some of the most incredible changes in our society. How does your faith call you to be a changemaker?

 Dedication: We Give You But Your Own ***VU #542**
 We give you but your own,
 whate'er the gift may be;
 all that we have is yours alone,
 we give it gratefully.

Prayer of Dedication:

Our gifts are vital. Each dollar matters, each talent used matters, each minute employed in the service of Jesus Christ matters. We thank God and each other for these gifts.

With our gifts come prayers for strength for any who are tired in work and service. With our gifts come prayers of encouragement for any who are feeling downhearted. With our gifts come prayers for hope for a restored Creation. With our gifts come prayers of comfort in the midst of grief and illness. With our gifts come the blessings of fellowship and welcome.

Our gifts are wonderful.

Thanks be to You, O God, for it is because of You that we can give with joy and can find joy as we receive the blessings of this community of faith. Amen.

Written by David Sparks; Gathering, Pentecost 2 2026; page 37; Used with permission

Prayers of the People:

Lord's Prayer:

***VU #960**

Hymn:

Walk with Me

***VU #649**

Commissioning:

Go now filled and surrounded with the Love that will never let you go.

We are the beloved of God, called to inspire the world with that love.

Go from here knowing that you are blessed, loved, and forgiven in the name of the Creator, Brother Jesus, and Nurturing Spirit.

Written by Susan Girard; Gathering, Pentecost 2 2026; page 39; Used with permission

Hymn:

Walk with Me (refrain only)

***VU #649**

Passing the Peace of Christ

L: May the God of Peace go with you.

P: And also with you.

*Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the
Library after the service.*

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VU #960 *Lord's Prayer*: Public Domain

VU #649 *Walk With Me*: Words, Music, Arrangement: Caitlin D. Rice.

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