

# Offering Invitations and Prayers: July‒December 2024 (Year B)

## July 7, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

I invite you at this time to share God’s abundance—in person, online at [insert your own website here or use [united-church.ca/donate](http://www.united-church.ca/donate)], through PAR, or in any way that you feel called to do so. We celebrate the time, talent, and labour represented in our gifts shared, to grow our ministry here in [our community of faith], and across the world through Mission and Service. In celebration and thankfulness for all we have received, we now share our offerings.

### Prayer

Holy One, we pray that the gifts given to this church will go farther into your world than we can imagine. May our generosity rise to the surface in all we do. Bless us, and all we share. Amen.

## July 14, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

Whether you find yourself dancing before the Lord today, or with heavy burdens you wish to set down, in this moment, you are invited to call upon God’s abundant love and respond generously. Together, our financial gifts support the ministry of [\_\_\_\_\_\_ United Church]. This community acknowledges joy and pain, marks rites of passage, and walks together in the Way of Jesus. Please share generously.

### Prayer

God of the dance, accept these gifts, and those given by PAR or online, and help our community steward them to inspire meaning in the world. We pray that you bless us, and the multitude of ways we generously share ourselves, with the aim to bring about your kin-dom. Amen.

## July 21, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

I invite you at this time to share God’s abundance by making a financial gift to this community of faith. Whether in person, online at [insert your own website here or use [united-church.ca/donate](http://www.united-church.ca/donate)], through PAR, or in any way that you feel called to do so. [\_\_\_\_\_\_ United Church] is a sign of God’s presence in our community for [XX] years, reflected in the sharing of many people’s time and money. When we share, we leave our legacy of faith—tied to our history, rooted in the present, looking towards the future. You are invited to support the multi-generational work of this church and Mission and Service by giving freely what you can today and with a legacy gift planned for the future.

### Prayer

God of all time, as we strive to be your church in the world, we are blessed by the forethought of generations past. They have built structures, dreamed of ministry, and given deeply. Bless the gifts we give, using them to continue being your church in an ever-changing world. We pray to be part of the generations-long faithful project to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

## July 28, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

We have reached the moment in our worship where you are invited to give to the ministry of the church and Mission and Service. Like Jesus’ disciples, sometimes when we are asked to share, we look at what we have and fear it won’t be enough. Like passing loaves and fishes, when we trust in God, we find that generosity is not transactional—God’s abundance doesn’t fit into a ledger. Instead, when we share our financial gifts, we open ourselves up to transformation and to being part of a world transformed. Thank you for the gifts you give today, on PAR, or in another way.

### Prayer

Holy God, we offer ourselves with our gifts, knowing that you have a purpose for us and for them. Expand our limited vision to see new possibilities and trust that you will take our generosity to transform lives. May all we offer reach beyond our ideas and be of service to your kin-dom of love. Amen.

## August 4, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

Jesus invites us with “I am the bread of life.” Our gifts to this community of faith feed the work and ministry of this church, and in turn we are fed. It’s a cycle of generosity—of giving and receiving. Thank you for being part of this cycle by making a financial gift to the work of this church. Donations can be made in person, online at [insert your own website here or use [united-church.ca/donate](http://www.united-church.ca/donate)], or monthly through PAR.

Your gifts ensure that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ United Church can [insert a couple of specific ministries—e.g., host Spirit-led worship, provide a meaningful book study, and feed many through our community pantry]. Together, our gifts will be used to serve the needs of those close to us and those across the world through Mission and Service.

### Prayer

Nourishing God, Bread of Life, with hungry, humble hearts we offer gratitude for the many gifts that we enjoy. Accept what we have offered to the work of this church, and help us transform our combined generosity into justice and meaning for those in our community and beyond. Amen.

## August 11, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

I invite you at this time to share God’s abundance—in person, online at [insert your own website here or use [united-church.ca/donate](http://www.united-church.ca/donate)], through PAR, or in any way that you feel called to do so. We come with our own special gifts. We come as a gifted congregation, marked by abundance. We make our offering for our community of faith and for the wider world through Mission and Service.

### Prayer

O God, You give many spectacular gifts, and so we give in thanksgiving. We pray that you may take these gifts that we offer, blessing all that we give. Let your love grow and spread around us. This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

## August 18, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

Often, we come to worship like King Solomon, with seeking hearts. Our prayers are filled with questions of what is right or wrong, hearts yearning to know what to do, or how to live in God’s world. When in doubt, we can return to gratitude. Noticing, knowing, and naming all the ways we are blessed can provide clarity. Now is the time in our worship together that we take a moment to breathe in gratitude (*pause*) and exhale generosity (*pause*)*,* sharing financially with the church locally and with Mission and Service.

### Prayer

God of bread and God of kings, we pray for understanding. Into your presence we come with grateful hearts, seeking to be wise, loving, and generous. Take the gifts we have shared today and walk with us as we transform them into your church in the world. With humble hearts we pray. Amen.

## August 25, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

I invite you at this time to share God’s abundance—in person, online at [insert your own website here or use [united-church.ca/donate](http://www.united-church.ca/donate)], through PAR, or in any way that you feel called to do so. In this moment of our lives, we are called to rejoice and give thanks for all we have been given. We make our offering for our community of faith and for the wider world through Mission and Service.

### Prayer

Holy God of abundant gifts, open our spirits and our hearts to rejoice in this day, to give gladly, and to celebrate how you keep giving to us. Let these gifts we give be signs of lives full of thanksgiving. In the name of Christ, who gave to us, we pray. Amen.

## September 1, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

We are in this place to celebrate God together. Let the gifts we give and all that we do be part of that celebration. I invite you at this time to share God’s abundance—in person, online at [insert your own website here or use [united-church.ca/donate](http://www.united-church.ca/donate)], through PAR, or in any way that you feel called to do so.

### Prayer

O God, let the gifts we make be blessed, for we seek the growth of your love among us. Let our own faith and spirit life be blessed so that our lives may be lived abundantly. And may your ministry flourish in the world through Mission and Service. In the name of Christ we give. Amen.

## September 8, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

I invite you today to consider the times you have seen a need for justice, for grace, for generosity, and decided it was someone else’s problem. Here and now, there is a need for each of us to share God’s abundance—in person, online at [insert your own website here or use [united-church.ca/donate](http://www.united-church.ca/donate)], through PAR, or in any way that you feel called to do so. Giving is a way to offer justice, grace, and generosity to our community, and, through Mission and Service, to the world.

### Prayer

O God of Grace, take these gifts of ours and let them be blessed in your service. Take all the parts of our lives we hesitate to offer, and let these too be sanctified and strengthened. May your love grow among us. May we share in your spirit of compassion. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

## September 15, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

We are called to love our neighbours as ourselves, to pray for them and to act in accordance with our prayers. Our offerings today are one way we respond to our calling, both through the ministries of this community of faith and through the ministries made possible by Mission and Service. I invite you at this time to share God’s abundance—in person, online at [insert your own website here or use [united-church.ca/donate](http://www.united-church.ca/donate)], through PAR, or in any way that you feel called to do so.

### Prayer

O God, with open hearts and minds, we offer what we can to help clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and honour the poor. Help us to be merciful, ever grateful, and aware that all blessings come from you. We dedicate our gifts to your use. Amen.

## September 22, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

All that we have and all that we are comes from God. Our gifts are not intended to repay God. What we offer helps reveal the face of God’s love in the world today. I invite you at this time to share God’s abundance through the work of this community of faith and through Mission and Service—in person, online at [insert your own website here or use [united-church.ca/donate](http://www.united-church.ca/donate)], through PAR, or in any way that you feel called to do so.

### Prayer

Loving God, we offer our gifts with gladness and thanksgiving. May they help reveal the face of your love and honour your presence among us.

## September 29, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

Accepting help from others can be a challenge. But serving others is one of the greatest gifts that a person can offer. Your offering today helps make both possible. I invite you at this time to share as someone who is open to receiving God’s abundance.

### Prayer

Loving God, we make these gifts in your service. We pray that through giving and serving, we learn to be more open to receiving as well.

## October 6, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

We are all members of God’s family. We share our gifts with those who are in need of what we have, and receive gifts we need from those who share them with us. Let us respond collectively, as a loving family would, as we make our offerings.

### Prayer

We offer these gifts to you, O God, with fervent hope that they will lessen suffering, heal the sick, and help the lost to find their way home. We cheerfully dedicate our offerings to your work in the world, both through this community of faith and through Mission and Service.

## October 13, Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

Jesus called all whom he met—young and old, poor and rich—to transform their lives by sharing their gifts. God uses what we offer today—our trust, our finances, the life-giving truths the Spirit has spoken to us—to bless us and others in our community and in the wider world through Mission and Service.

### Prayer

Gracious God, you call each one of us to be a disciple of Jesus. We offer our lives and our gifts to bless others in your name. Amen.

## October 20, Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

God is faithful, generous, creative, and loving. Therefore, let us put our trust in God, offering our gifts of finances, time, prayer, and creative imagination for the joy of ministry here in this community of faith and beyond through Mission and Service. I invite you at this time to share God’s abundance—in person, online at [insert your own website here or use [united-church.ca/donate](http://www.united-church.ca/donate)], or through PAR.

### Prayer

Holy and Gracious One, increase our imagination that we may see your love more fully realized through this community of faith and the life-giving purpose at our centre. Bless the gifts we make in your name, and help us to give with even more generosity and compassion than we have received. Amen.

## October 27, Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

Even if the ways of God seem so mysterious as to be unknowable, still at least we get glimpses and hints. Generosity. Love. Justice. Mercy. Passion. Each of these is also a way we can be closer to God. Like all of our offerings of time and generosity, and this offering of money we now make. Please give generously.

### Prayer

Holy One, we offer these gifts because we want to know you better and be closer toy. Please bless all of our giving with your presence. Amen.

## November 3, Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

As people of Jesus’ Way, what is the most important thing we can do? We must love. Love God with all we are and all we have, and love others the same way. An important way that we show our love is by refusing to hoard and instead giving generously. Every time we make our offering of our money and ourselves—past, present, and future to come—we are a sign of God’s kin-dom in this community. Let’s do that now.

### Prayer

Generous God, take our gifts as a sign of our love for you and for others. May your kin-dom come and come and come! We ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## November 10, Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

## Invitation

So, here’s the rub. If you have more than you need, please give generously. On the other hand, if your financial gift will result in you relying on the food bank, or missing a rent or mortgage payment, please keep your money. Either way you participate in God’s ministry of sharing and compassionate love. In that spirit, let us make our offering for this community of faith and for Mission and Service.

### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, you desire everyone to have enough to live hopefully, thankfully, and generously. May the sharing of our offerings help to make your desire a reality. Amen.

## November 17, Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitation

I want to be clear. This invitation to make a financial gift is not about paying the bills and keeping the lights on. This time of offering is not just a fundraiser in religious disguise. It is a fulfillment of scripture. Hebrews 10:24 says, “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.” So, allow me to provoke you. Please, through the financial gifts you make, through the time and ability you offer, as you offer yourself, be generous. Thank you.

### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, thank you for giving us this opportunity to share. Thank you for helping us to love and do good deeds. May our gifts and our giving help us to grow in love and care for the world. Amen.

## November 24, Reign of Christ

### Invitation

Friends, through the offerings you present, you are given the privilege of sharing in God's ministry. Let your hearts and spirits overflow with generosity as you give, for the ministries of this community of faith, of the whole United Church and beyond, through Mission and Service.

### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, you are indeed the beginning and end of all things. May these gifts—and those given online or through PAR—be a part of your abundant vision for all creation. Amen.

## December 1, First Sunday of Advent

### Invitation

Friends: “The days are surely coming,” says God, “when I will fulfill the promise of justice and righteousness.” I invite you now to be a part of fulfilling God’s promise as you give generously. Your gifts to this community of faith, and our wider service through Mission and Service, provide hope as you help to bring justice a little closer.

### Prayer

Gracious God, with these gifts we declare that our hope lies in you. We trust you to provide all that we need, and so we are secure in offering these generous gifts. May our giving be a sign of our faith and hope. Bless our giving, that it might indeed serve your purposes in us and in the world. Amen.

## December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

### Invitation

The world is crying out, "Where is the God of peace?” By offering our gifts, we give an answer. The impact of what we offer, through this church and through Mission and Service, loudly proclaim that the God of peace is active in this community of faith and around the world. Please be generous.

### Prayer

God of peace, complete in us the good work you have started. As you refine us, melt our cold hearts, mould our lives, and nurture us into the good stewards you would have us be. May giving these gifts be a part of that process. Amen.

## December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

### Invitation

Sometimes we wonder how generous we should be. John the Baptizer was very clear: Share what you have so that everyone has enough, and do not give in to greed. I wonder what that could look like here? What joy would that kind of generosity bring us? Friends, let us trust God to be sufficient in all things as we share our gifts for our community of faith and for God’s work in the world through Mission and Service.

### Prayer

God of joy, may giving these gifts be our deepest joy. You are the God of abundance, and on this day, we give thanks knowing that you are our salvation; we will trust, and will not be afraid, for you are our hope and our strength. Amen.

## December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Invitation

Friends, this is difficult. Hearing the words of Mary as recorded in the Bible, too often we believe we are the chosen ones; we believe we are the ones God raises up and fills and protects. However, many of us are the rich, the proud, and the powerful. Yet there is good news for us, too. When you choose to generously share all that God has given you to feed and house, to comfort and heal, to seek justice and resist evil, you ally yourselves with the love of God you have found. Let us share our gifts, that all may know God’s love.

### Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for the grace and love you show us. As we share and give, may your love be revealed in our lives, in the lives of others, and in the world. Amen.

## December 24 Christmas Eve‒December 25, Christmas Day

### Invitation

Tonight/Today, we celebrate the birth of Jesus and experience God’s generosity to us. We believe God gave God’s Self to us in Jesus. Generosity is at the core of God’s being. God’s generosity is unlimited! We get it! And so, I invite you to give and be generous. To give gifts. To share. Because generosity is also at the core of our being.

### Prayer

Gracious and generous God, we give of ourselves for the same reasons that you offer yourself: to touch lives, care for the poor, lift up the broken-hearted, and bring comfort to those in need. May our giving bring hope, peace, joy, and love to all people. Thank you for inviting us to do this with you, and thank you for Jesus. Amen.

## December 29, First Sunday after Christmas Day

### Invitation

Friends, I invite you to give of yourselves, so that through your gifts, people here and elsewhere may experience the fullness of God’s grace as revealed in Jesus.

### Prayer

Gracious God, we give thanks for everyone who helps us discover and grow as followers of Jesus. Whatever form our offerings take, may our gifts help to reveal Jesus to the world. Amen.