



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, April 15, 2018

3rd Sunday of Easter

Leading Worship: Children & Youth
Pianist: Mary Anderson



Worship Schedule

Apr 22	Earth Day	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 29	Philip & the Eunuch	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 6	Sing a New Song	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 13	St. Andrew's College	- Youngjin Park

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

"Play keeps us vital and alive. It gives us an enthusiasm for life that is irreplaceable. Without it, life just doesn't taste good"•

-Lucia Capocchione

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

ONE: As we light this candle
we are reminded of the flame in each of us;
a fire of passion, of playfulness,
of light to be shared with the world,
to make the world a better place for all.
With Christ as our light and our way,
we come now to worship.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Centering Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine* (please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ALL: As children of God, we come:

ONE: To delight in the moment, knowing there's no big hurry.
To be relaxed and spontaneous, letting go of our worry.
To remember life is discovery, learning is naturally fun,
and that with playfulness work can still get done.
Playfulness increases enjoyment and creative fun messes.
Playfulness reduces seriousness and the tensions of stresses.
Playfulness nourishes creativity, new ideas and discovery
In playfulness, life become less serious and more lovely.

ALL: Let us remember our playful nature. Amen.



Opening Hymn: VU #412 This is the Day
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & Jesus' Prayer

ONE: Let me huddle in the muddle of a slush-delicious mess!
Grass stain green on my knees and bestest dress.
Let me jump in the jungle of the trees in my yard
I can chirp like the birds if I listen extra hard.
Let me run in the sun on an August afternoon.
Skip in the rain to a rain-drop dripping tune.
Let me hop like a rabbit as it scurries on its way.
Let me see, let me touch, let me find, let me play!
Let me leap like a leopard over shadows that I see!
Run like an antelope where antelopes run free.
Let me giggle in the gaggle of a tag-playing gang
Let me out, let me in, let me shout, let me bang!
Give me rules to be fair, give me lessons how to share
But let me wriggle as I figgle all about what is there.
Let me clamber over boulders! Climb the highest hills I find—
Let me do it now, and then on my very own time!
In the stormiest of weather
Let us play all together—
Because everyone's on everybody's team
In the running and the why-ing
In the funning and the sky-flying
In the hopping and the trying
In the hoping and the high-five-ing
ALL: Let us play. Let us play. Let us dream!

WORD

Hymn: MV #156 Dance with the Spirit *(please stand as you are able)*

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Song: It's Funny! *(A Sesame Street video)*
(please remain seated and listen along)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 126

ONE: We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.
ALL: May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: "Playfulness"

Gift of Music: Deep and Wide - Sunday School and Youth Group

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Caring for Children in Gaza

Offering

Offertory Hymn: Love Is Something If You Give It Away
(please stand as you are able)

Acrostic Prayer of Dedication

ONE: Dear God, we dedicate ourselves to remember our innate
playfulness...

ALL: People smiling
Laughing
And loving
Youthful
Full of life,
Understanding and
Light
Nice and
Easy,
Sweet and
Silly
May we remind ourselves to play in God's garden,
Amidst work, amidst difficulty, amidst challenges,
God invites us into playfulness.

Prayers of the People

Closing Song: I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy (Down In My Heart)
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude: A Baby's Laughter

Lectionary Readings for April 22, 2018

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23 (VU pp. 747-749)
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Reflection on the Humboldt Broncos Tragedy

God's heart was the first to break. On Friday evening joy, excitement, laughter, and adrenaline for the upcoming competition filled a bus, and suddenly turned into fear, pain, and heartache. God's heart was the first to break.

As our souls cry out in shock, grief, and heartache, as we are overwhelmed by the devastation again and again, we are assured that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. When no words will suffice, when our prayers are the tears and stunned silences, we know these too are holy. We weep with those who are grieving, and lift prayers of lament with all those whose souls cry out.

Here as we ache, as shock turns to pain, God finds us. In every phone call offered, every card sent, every cookie baked, and blanket brought. In every dollar donated to the families affected, and every person lining up to donate blood. In food, prayers, hugs and silence together. As candles are lit. God is known in these communities.

God is known in the hours of sleep given up by first responders, working tirelessly through their own shock, horror, and grief, a burden they bear for all of us. God is known in the nurses and doctors who continue to work tirelessly. And we offer our prayers to all, thanks for their help and our promise to be there whenever and however they need us.

We lift prayers for those healing from injuries, knowing they will need support and care. And for the families facing their worst nightmare - we grieve with them.

Here in Saskatchewan where community is known in the hockey rink, we take strength in God who is always present in community for the long walk ahead. And we will make it together. One step at a time we will walk together taking turns sharing one another's burdens. In all our communities, large and small, let us stand united in love. As we offer care and compassion to all those affected, let our love lead us. Now, and in the difficult days to come, we are all one team. And may the strength, courage, and peace of our God, Source of us all, be with you this day and forever more.

Rev. Krystal Sheremeta
President, SK Conference