



FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Swift Current, SK
Sunday, April 2, 2017

Lent Five- Zootopia

Leading Worship: Sunday School and Youth Group
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection:

*We're the same, we're different.
That's what makes the world such fun.
Many kinds of people not just one!
A rainbow would be boring, if it were only green or blue.
What makes a rainbow beautiful is that it has every hue.
So, aren't you glad, you look like you?
We're different, we're the same.*
- "We're Different, We're the Same"
by Bobbi Jane Kates

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Hymn: VU #121 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
(Lent 5 – sung twice) (please remain seated)

Call to Worship:

ONE: As a community of faith, we gather to worship. We come with our differences, but with Christ as our common ground.

ALL: We gather to worship and be reminded of our connection to each other and to all creation.

ONE: Come; let us invest ourselves in this time of worship.

ALL: Amen.

Worship Schedule

April 9	Palm Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
April 13	Maundy Thursday (5:30p.m.) - Adele Heise - supper & service	
April 14	Good Friday (10:30a.m.)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
April 16	Easter Sunday - with baptisms	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Responding to Refugees: Your Best Friend Is Your Neighbour



We are called by our Song of Faith to defend human dignity and love fiercely in the face of violence. The generous people of the United Church have responded to this call by donating over \$8 million to local efforts that helped sponsor more than 900 Syrian refugees for resettlement in

Canada.

United Church people have also donated over \$1.05 million to our Syria Refugee Appeal. Your generous support allows Mission & Service partners on the ground in the Middle East respond to the needs of displaced Syrians through a lens of human dignity.

In Jordan, Mission & Service partner the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) has been responding to the needs of Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan for many years (see video above). As many other refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria also end up in Jordan, MECC works to aid the local churches that house and support these refugees.

Opening Hymn: MV #1 Let Us Build a House
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer

(Hands across the heart.)

ONE: Dear God, you have created us as a people each with different gifts.

ALL: Each an individual, all empowered to contribute in your world.

(Holding the hands of those next to you.)

ONE: You have created us, a people, to live in community.

ALL: Each an individual, all empowered to contribute in your world.

(Hands out palms facing up.)

ONE: You have created us, a people, and given gifts with which to serve.

ALL: Each an individual, all empowered to contribute in your world.

(Hands up, palms reaching out.)

ONE: You have created us, and called us to serve.

ALL: Each an individual, all empowered to contribute in your world.

Prayer of Jesus – sung version

- music by *Leona Gibney* *(please remain seated)*

WORD

Hymn: Help Us Accept Each Other (verses 1, 2 & 3)

- words by *Fred Kaan*, music by *Jim Strathdee*

(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Melanie Davis

Hymn: Help Us Accept Each Other (verse 4)

(please remain seated)

The Scripture Isaiah 11:3b-9

Readers: Kadence and Bree Pavely

We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.

May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: “Journey to Zootopia”

Choral Offering: “Nothing More”

The Alternate Routes

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: A Congregational Giving Program

Reader: Amy and Macy Popick

Offering

Offertory Hymn: MV #191 What Can I Do?

(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

God, by our smallest actions, we become part of a bigger world.

The smallest giving can be an expression of the good spirit of generosity and caring. May we be helped to carry through the doorway of each new day, this spirit of generosity and caring. Amen.

Prayer of the People

Closing Hymn: MV #145 Draw the Circle Wide

Commissioning and Benediction

Go into the world:

Dance, laugh, sing and create.

We go with the assurance of your blessing, O God.

Go into the world:

Risk, explore, discover and love.

We go with the assurance of your grace, O God.

Go into the world:

Believe, hope, struggle, and remember.

We go with the assurance of your love, O God.

Thanks be to God!

Choral Amen: VU #298 When You Walk From Here

(sung twice)

Postlude

(continued from previous page)

“We try to liberate them from what I call imposed food parcels and clothes,” says Wafa Goussous, Director, MECC Jordan. “We provide for them vouchers where they can take the voucher, go to the shop, choose their own food, choose their own clothes ... especially [important] for the children.”

Your donations help the MECC serve Syrian and Iraqi refugees while they seek to rebuild their lives.

“I wish for my family, especially for my only daughter, a stable life where it’s safe,” says one refugee, who fled Iraq with her husband and daughter after the attempted kidnapping of her daughter outside of her kindergarten. “Since our childhoods, we have grown up in a war—war after war after war. We didn’t see anything beautiful in our lives. I wish for her to have a better future than ours.”

For more information, contact:

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