



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

April 23, 2017

Earth Sunday

Leading Worship: First United Choir

Reading: Gerry Rya

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection:

There is enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed.
Mahatma Gandhi

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Hymn: VU #412 This is the Day (*verses 1 & 2*)
(*please stand as you are able*)

Call to Worship:

ONE: Come and worship the Creator who gently cares for the land.

ALL: Come and worship Jesus who calms the waters.

ONE: Come and worship the Spirit who blows through the trees.

ALL: Come and worship the Spirit who blows through the trees.

Opening Hymn: MV#41 O, Beautiful Gaia

(*please stand as you are able*)

Worship Schedule

April 30	On the Road to Emmaus	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 7	All Things in Common	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 14	St. Andrew's College	- Rev. Lorne Calvert
May 21	The Great Gardener	- Norma Hain

Recent Events:

Monday, April 17 – Shirley Duxbury Memorial Service

Moderator's Easter 2017 Message:

This Is Resurrection



Friends, two-and-a-half months ago, a gunman walked into a mosque in Quebec City and killed six people, wounding 19 others. Something in all of us died that day.

But friends, that is not where that story ends because in the days and weeks following that tragedy, people across this country and around the world came together and formed communities of love and solidarity and resistance.

Morning Prayer:

Loving God,
how often do we forget
the beauty of the Earth.
We confess that we do not always care for our home.
We confess that we rely on the conveniences of today's society.
Forgive us when we don't remember the impact of our decisions.
Remind us of your path to dignity for all.
Teach us to be caregivers in our world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

WORD

Hymn: MV #92 Like a Rock (*sung twice*)
(*please stand as you are able*)

Community Learning Time: - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV92 #Like a Rock (*sung once*)
(*please stand as you are able*)

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11: 6-9
Psalm 148 (VU pg. 871)

We read these texts so that in them we may find wisdom for life.
May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: Earth Day

Choral Offering: What a Wonderful World
George Weiss/Bob Thiel

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Five Oaks Farewell

Offering

Offertory Hymn: MV #191 What Can I Do?
(*please stand as you are able*)

Prayer of Dedication:

Dear God,
we are all so blessed in the world around us.
We seek to care for creation as you care so lovingly for us.
Accept these gifts and those of our hearts
to continue living your way in the world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: VU #713 I See a New Heaven
(*please stand as you are able*)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #958 Halle, Halle, Halle
(*sung at least three times*)

Postlude

Service Resources: copyright 2011 United Church of Canada

Lectionary Readings for April 30, 2017:

Acts 2 :14a, 36-41
Psalm 116 :1-4, 12-19 (VU p.836)
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24 :13-35

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And something changed for us because more of these kinds of events have been happening ever since: a prayer vigil, an interfaith gathering for prayers and peace in the public square in front of city hall—a first for Saskatoon, as far as I know. And this is just one of many stories like this that are unfolding across this country.

Friends, this is resurrection. Resurrection is the power of love that confronts the forces that deal in death and hatred and says “You will not have the final word.”

Easter is the time in our church season when we celebrate that resurrection, and we often do it with much joyfulness and a lightness of spirit. But I am reminded that the gospel texts, when they tell the story of those who encountered the empty tomb and the risen Christ, their response in the moment was to be astounded, to be confounded—fearful even—and yet there was a spark of hope that was lit.

And from that spark they ran and told others. And from that, communities of life and love emerged. That is what it means for us to be an Easter people—to be those who embody that fierce, unrelenting love that says to the forces of death and hate that continue to operate today: “You do not get the last word. We say no. We resist. Because God is a God of love and of life, and we will be a people of love and of life.”

Friends, may it be so for us this Easter. May we be a resurrection people.

[Watch the video](#)