



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

April 9, 2017

### Palm Sunday

Leading Worship: Annette Taylor

Reading: Jean Pearson

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection (VU #124):

*He came riding on a donkey, he came riding into town;  
slow and easy kind of lowly he came riding with the dawn.  
His disciples walked beside him, staying close, a little shy,  
not too sure where he would guide them, on to live or on to die.*

#### 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 let us follow Jesus, for Jerusalem is near.  
Jesus and his friends are ready to enter the city.

**ALL: In the air there is a sense of wonder and mystery,  
of the Word being fulfilled.**

ONE: Jesus enters the city riding a colt  
and the crowds cry out,

**ALL: Hosanna! Blessed is the one  
who comes in the name of the Most High!**

ONE: The Heir to the House of David  
is welcomed into Jerusalem,

**ALL: and Holy Week begins.**

Adapted from: Sandy Ferguson, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2017, page 33.

## 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

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## 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. (*continued on back page*)

**Opening Hymn: VU #123 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Morning Prayer:**

**Ground of our Being,**  
**on this Palm Sunday,**  
**we remember the crowds who shouted,**  
**“Hosanna to the Son of David!”**  
**We remember those who declared with joy,**  
**“This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee!”**  
**And yet we know that the road to Jerusalem**  
**is the way to the cross, to Golgotha and death.**  
**May we know your loving presence**  
**now and throughout this week,**  
**as we journey with Jesus to the cross and beyond.**

Adapted from: Wanda Winfield, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2017, page 33.

**Prayer of Jesus – sung version**  
*- music by Leona Gibney*

## **WORD**

**Hymn: MV #128 When They Heard That Jesus Was Coming**  
*(verses 1, 2 & 3) (please remain seated)*

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: MV #128 When They Heard That Jesus Was Coming**  
*(verse 11) (please remain seated)*

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-17**

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: Holy Week Begins**

**Choral Offering: Come Into the Streets with Me**  
*Words by Shirley Erena Murray &  
Music by Ron Klusmeier*

## **RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: Extreme Hunger Appeal**

**Offering**

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

**Prayer of Dedication:**  
**Jesus came to show us**  
**that we achieve our greatest worth through service.**  
**Holy Mystery,**  
**bless these offerings, symbols of our service,**  
**that your love and goodness be more fully known**  
**through us and through them.**  
**Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: VU #646 We Are Marching** *(verses 1&2 repeated)*  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing: VU #298 When You Walk from Here**  
*(sung twice)*

**Postlude**

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**Lectionary Readings for April 16, 2017:**

Acts 10 :34-43 or Jeremiah 31 :1-6

Psalms 118 :1-2, 14-24 (VU p, 837)

Colossians 3 :1-4

John 20 :1-18 or Matthew 28 :1-10

*(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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