



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

December 18, 2016

### Advent Four - Love

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reading: Tami Pavely

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary



### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection

*Being the Beloved constitutes  
the core truth of our existence.*

— Henri J.M. Nouwen

**Prelude Carol of the Bells**

- Bliss Ries

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Sharing of Peace**

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Advent Hymn: Light a Candle** (*verse 4 – sung twice*)

- Terry Macham (*please remain seated*)

**Call to Worship**

ONE: Advent summons us

**ALL: with the exuberant hopefulness of a child**

ONE: Advent holds us

**ALL: spellbound with child-like wonder.**

ONE: Advent challenges us

**ALL: to care for the littlest child.**

ONE: Advent amazes us,

**ALL: for God's love was made known in a tiny child.**

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 80.

## Worship Schedule

10:30 a.m. Sunday Service

December 24 Christmas Eve (7 p.m.) - Rev. Annette Taylor

December 25 Christmas Sunday - Rev. Annette Taylor

January 1 New Year's Sunday - Norma Hain

January 8 Epiphany Sunday - Rev. Annette Taylor

### Recent Events

Monday, December 12 - Donald Szakacs Memorial Service

Saturday, December 17 - Pansie Roszell Funeral Service

## Mission & Service – Advent Message

Thank you for your faithful support of the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada. Through your generous giving, you are making a difference in the lives of so many across Canada and around the world.

As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus, I am writing to say thank you, to share the story of the impact of Mission & Service on our collective response to the Syrian refugee crisis, and to provide you with an opportunity to [make a year-end gift to the Mission & Service](#) of the church.



In response to the refugee crisis, congregations have raised over \$8 million to sponsor over 900 refugees!

The General Council Office holds the sponsorship agreement with the federal government. Supported by Mission & Service giving, Khwaka Kukubo and her staff at GCO are working tirelessly to make these sponsorships possible. *(see back of bulletin)*

**Opening Hymn: VU #9 People, Look East**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Morning Prayer**

**Holy Mystery, we give thanks**  
**that Jesus showed your love for every person –**  
**infant and child, young and old,**  
**sick and healthy, strong and weak,**  
**rich and poor, stranger and friend.**  
**Come to us this Advent season,**  
**and give us love in our hearts for all.**

*From: Celebrate God's Presence, page 84.*

**Jesus' Prayer: VU #959** *(please remain seated as we sing)*

**WORD**

**Hymn: MV #89 Love Is the Touch** *(verses 1,2, & 3)*  
*(please remain seated)*

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: MV #89 Love Is the Touch** *(verse 4)*  
*(please remain seated)*

**Reading: Matthew 1:18-25**

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: When Do We Forget?**

**Choral Offering: Love Can Build a Bridge**  
*- Words & Music by Paul Overstreet,*  
*Naomi Judd & John Jarvis*

**RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: Servant Leadership**

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn: Here Our Gifts We Offer, God**  
*- Sandra Jenkinson (tune: Good King Wenceslas)*  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**O come to us, Emmanuel,**  
**and make our giving holy.**  
**For what is here is freely given,**  
**with hope and joy and love.**  
**Let our gifts join with others**  
**so that our world may become**  
**your dream of peace. Amen**

*From: Kate Crawford, Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2107, page 31.*

**Prayers of the People**

**Gift of Music: Once Upon a Christmas** - Gospel Band  
*- Words & Music by Dolly Parton*

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing: MV #221 I Am Walking a Path of Love**

**Postlude**

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**Lectionary Readings for December 25, 2016:**

Isaiah 62 : 6-12  
Psalm 97 (VU p. 817)  
Titus 3 :4-7  
Luke 2: (1-7), 8-20



Also in response to the Syrian crisis, over \$1 million was donated to the Syrian Refugee Appeal headed up by Gary Kenney, and now by Pat Elson. With the leadership of Wendy Gichuru, these funds were put to work through our Mission & Service partners to help with the very challenging conditions in the refugee camps.

These staff positions are also supported by Mission & Service giving. In addition, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, with support from Mission & Service, is taking thousands of food boxes into Syria to support families alongside their food program in refugee camps in Jordan. What a great integrated response of love and caring your giving supports!

These are just some of the thousands of stories I could share with you in this letter. Please take a moment to join me today in [making a gift to the Mission & Service](#) of the church to continue to love and serve others together.

Thank you for making Mission & Service an active part of your life of discipleship.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan".

The Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell  
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

P.S.: This Christmas season please use the gift catalogue of the people of the United Church when you plan your giving:  
[www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca).

P.P.S.: As you plan your stewardship for next year, please consider making a lasting gift to Mission & Service in your will. For information please call 1-866-340-8223.

**To make a donation, call 1-800-268-3781, ext. 2738 or [donate online](#). If you contribute to Mission & Service in your congregation, please receive our heartfelt thanks.**