



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

February 19, 2017

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

Leading Worship: Annette Taylor

Reading: Lesley Oakman

Pianist: Sharon Veer

### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection:

*“Being holy . . . does not mean being perfect but being whole; . . . it does not mean being morally better, it means being exemplary; it does not mean being godly, but rather being truly human.”*

— William Stringfellow

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Sharing of Peace/Prelude

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

#### Centering Hymn: MV #14 Where Two or Three Are Gathered

*(please remain seated)*

#### Call to Worship

ONE: God said, “Be holy, for I, Yahweh, am holy.”

**ALL: How then shall I live?**

ONE: Jesus said,

“be perfect as Abba God in heaven is perfect.”

**ALL: How then shall I live?**

ONE: God asked Moses to tell his people,

“You must love your neighbour as you love yourself.”

**ALL: How then shall I live?**

ONE: Come let us listen, and pray and sing as we attempt to unravel the mystery of what it means to be holy.

## Worship Schedule

*(Lenten Movie Series)*

February 26	Transfiguration (Potluck Lunch & AGM)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
March 5	Lent One – La La Land	- Rev. Annette Taylor
March 12	Lent Two – Moonlight	- Rev. Annette Taylor
March 19	Lent Three – Arrival	- Rev. Annette Taylor
March 26	Lent Four – Hidden Figures	- Rev. Annette Taylor

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## Letter of Solidarity for our Muslim Neighbours

Published: January 30, 2017



To all of our Muslim brothers and sisters,

Our hearts overflow with sorrow for the victims of the shooting at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec last night. Shock and outrage mingle with our tears at this horrific act of terror perpetrated against innocent, faithful people. We are holding you all in our prayers at this most terrible time.

This heinous violent act and other recent attacks targeting Muslims in Quebec and elsewhere are designed to instill fear and division within and between our communities. We will not let this happen.

The United Church of Canada stands with our Muslim neighbours. We share your grief, as we share your determination to stop the forces of hate that seek to divide and destroy us. Trusting in a compassionate and just God, we will resist fear and prejudice with love.

*(continued on back of bulletin)*

**Opening Hymn: MV #79 Spirit, Open My Heart**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Morning Prayer & Jesus' Prayer**  
**You are Yahweh, Ground of our Being, Loving Spirit**  
so holy, we cannot understand,  
yet you turn the pages of your heart,  
so we might learn to love;  
so creative, we stand open-mouthed  
in awe and wonder,  
yet you teach us the words and actions  
than can bring hope  
to those who need it most.  
**You are God,**  
**and we gather in these moments to worship you.**

Adapted from: *Seasons of the Spirit*™ SeasonsFUSION Advent • Christmas •  
Epiphany 2016–2017, page 180.

## WORD

**Hymn: How Then Shall I Live** (*verses 1, 2 & 3*)  
*- Linnea Good (please remain seated)*

### Community Learning Time

**Hymn: How Then Shall I Live** (*verse 4*)  
*- Linnea Good (please remain seated)*

### Scripture Readings:

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18

Matthew 5: 38-48

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: Living the Holy Life**

**Choral Offering: Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life**  
*- Words by George Herbert &*  
*Arranged by Hal H. Hopson*

## RESPONSE

**Minute for Mission: Rendez-vous!**

### Offering

**Offertory Hymn: VU #585 Jesus Bids us Shine** (*verse 1*)  
*(please stand as you are able)*

### Prayer of Dedication:

**Holy Mystery,**

**with this offering, we present also ourselves:**

all that we have been,

all that we are,

all that we shall become, and

our resolve to live the holy life.

**May we and our offerings**

**be used to do your work**

**in this place and in the world. Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

**Closing Hymn: VU #595 We Are Pilgrims**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

### Commissioning & Benediction

**Choral Closing: MV #220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star**

### Postlude

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### Lectionary Readings for February 26, 2017:

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

The **World Day of Prayer** will be  
held on Friday, March 3, 2017 at 12:05 p.m.  
at St. Stephen's Anglican Church - 108 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N.E.

In love we reach out to you, our sisters and brothers, our fellow Canadians, to offer support and comfort. We open our hearts to you as we extend the hand of solidarity. We commit to redoubling our efforts to seek peace and justice for all peoples within and beyond Canada. We will work side by side with our neighbours of every faith and of no faith to heal the brokenness that fractures our communities and forge bonds of friendship and cooperation.

You are not alone. As people of faith across this country hold prayer vigils for the victims of the shooting and their families, know that you are embraced by the arms of love.

May the Creator, Allah, God, who gives us our common humanity, give us the strength of spirit and will to walk in unity and love in these troubled times.

In peace and solidarity,

The Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell  
Moderator/Moderatrice  
The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada

**Moderator's Letter Translated into Arabic:**

Not long after the moderator wrote this letter of solidarity to Muslim neighbours following the shooting at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec, a question was raised about whether the letter could be translated into Arabic. Fortunately, when asked, General Council staff member Ammar Youzbashi offered to translate the text.

Copies of the translated letter were presented to a group of Muslims who work in the office complex and visit the General Council Office chapel each week for Friday prayers.