



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
February 25, 2018

### Second Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Reader: Karen Messer  
Pianist: Mary Anderson



### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection

*"Faith is life lived  
resting on God's grace."*

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Sharing of Peace/Prelude

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: **MV #81 Love Us into Fullness**  
*(all 3 verses) (please remain seated)*

#### Call to Worship

ONE: Lent can be a journey,  
together and alone.

**ALL: Lent can be temptation  
for each and everyone one.**

ONE: Lent can be a challenge  
to see with more than eyes.

**ALL: Lent can be a pathway,  
through sunset to sunrise.**

ONE: Let us celebrate God's presence  
as we travel together on this Lenten journey.

Opening Hymn: **MV #87 Water Flowing from the Mountains**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

## Worship Schedule

*Lenten Movie Series*

Mar 4	Lent Three – The Post	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 11	Lent Four – Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 18	Lent Five – The Shape of Water	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 25	Palm Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor

### Recent Events

Wednesday, February 21 – Marilyn Robertson Memorial Service

## Moderator: Address Racism, Privilege after Stanley Verdict



**We will never realize the  
promise of what Canada  
can be unless we all  
work to make it so.**

On Friday, February 9, 2018, The United Church of Canada posted a response to the good news that

Bill C-262, an act to harmonize Canadian law with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, had passed second reading. Optimistically, perhaps naively, we titled it "[A Promise of What Canada Can Be.](#)"

I say "naively" because later that day, the reality of what Canada is was made clear when a not-guilty verdict was returned in the second-degree murder trial of Gerald Stanley. Stanley had been charged in the death of Colten Boushie, a 22-year-old man from Red Pheasant First Nation in Treaty 6 (Saskatchewan), who with a group of friends turned up on Stanley's farm late in the afternoon of August 9, 2016.

*(continued on back of bulletin)*

## Opening Prayer and Jesus' Prayer

Holy Mystery,  
we like the idea of walking with Jesus.  
It feels good to step alongside  
someone we love and admire.  
But this Lenten journey demands  
more than admiration.  
There will be wilderness times to test us,  
and grace-filled moments to sustain us.  
May our Lenten paths be blessed,  
our imaginations ignited and  
our hearts opened.  
So that, for each one of us, this can be  
a journey of questions,  
a journey of reflections, and  
a journey of discovery.

Adapted from: Susan Ivany, *Gathering Lent/Easter* 2018, page 31.

## WORD

**Choral Offering: Come to the Water**  
*- Mary Martin & Joseph M. Martin*

## Celebration of Baptism & Profession of Faith

Holli Melin Filson  
Bria Berri Marie Filson  
Parents: Erin Kinney & Shaun Filson  
Patricia Gail Dyck Bunkosky

## Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-15

ONE: We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.  
ALL: May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

**Reflection: Lady Bird**

**Hymn: MV #98 Like a River of Tears**  
*(please remain seated)*

## RESPONSE

**Minute for Mission: Everybody is Like Everybody Else's Family**

## Offering

**Offertory Hymn: VU #537 Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands**  
*(verses 1 & 2) (please stand as you are able)*

## Prayer of Dedication

During this season of Lent,  
we offer ourselves to you.  
Take us, and all we are.  
Transform us into people whose compassion  
knows no boundaries,  
and whose willingness to serve  
is guided by your Spirit. Amen.

From: *The Whole People of God* - February 18, 2018 Worship Resources, page 4.

## Prayers of the People

**Closing Hymn: VU #266 Amazing Grace**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

## Commissioning & Benediction

**Choral Closing: VU #649 Walk with Me** *(sing chorus twice)*

## Postlude

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## Lectionary Readings for March 4, 2018

Exodus 20:1-7  
Psalm 19 (VU p.740-741)  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

*(continued from previous page)*

After a series of events, three gunshots were fired from a pistol handled by Stanley. Colten Boushie, who never left the vehicle he arrived in, was killed by a bullet to the head. Stanley was acquitted on the grounds that the gun accidentally fired a third time after two warning shots.

There has been much discussion in the court, media, and social media of the First Nations young adults' behaviour on the farm; of Gerald Stanley's and his son's response; and of the Stanleys' conduct after Colten Boushie's death.

What happened on that farm was preceded and followed by the racism and White privilege that are embedded in Canadian society. Those of us in the dominant culture are reluctant to name this. Similarly, those of us who are White are reluctant to acknowledge and confront our privilege.

Imagine the police conducting an armed search of your home as they tell you that your child has been shot and killed. I can't.

Imagine that your child has been shot and killed, and that everybody on the jury looks like the shooter. No one looks like you or your child. I can't.

The church is no stranger to racism and privilege; indeed, those beliefs drove the colonial policies to assimilate Indigenous Peoples that we, with the government, pursued in the running of Indian Residential Schools. Those beliefs persist in prejudices that non-Indigenous peoples may not even recognize they hold. And as the 2016 findings of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found, they remain in policies and structures that treat Indigenous peoples in Canada as lesser than others.

[Read more of the moderator's letter](#)