



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

February 26, 2017

7th Sunday of Epiphany

Leading Worship: Annette Taylor

Reading: Karen Messer

Pianist: Sharon Veer

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection:

Personal transformation can and does have global effects.

As we go, so goes the world, for the world is us.

The revolution that will save the world is ultimately a personal one.

- Marianne Williamson

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: MV #115 Behold, I Make All Things New
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: To climb a mountain is no easy task.

ALL: It takes work of the heart, mind and body.

ONE: To meet God face to face is no easy task.

ALL: It takes work of the heart, mind and body.

ONE: In the climbing, in the meeting,

ALL: we are changed.

ONE: In the speaking, in the listening,

ALL: we are changed.

ONE: In the worship, in the prayer,

ALL: the world is changed.

So we climb, we meet, we speak, we listen –

Worship Schedule

(Lenten Movie Series)

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
April 2	Lent Five – Zootopia	- Sunday School & Youth

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)

ONE: and, most of all,

ALL: we celebrate the presence of God.

Adapted from: Richard Bott, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 50.

Opening Hymn: MV #150 Spirit God, Be Our Breath
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer & Jesus' Prayer

Holy Mystery, Ground of our Being,

we are awestruck by the glory of your presence.

We rejoice at what we can see;

we marvel at what we cannot see.

You dazzle us with your brightness;

you overshadow us with a great cloud.

Loving, protecting, challenging, nurturing,

you strengthen and transform us.

May we love and serve you

in all that we are and do.

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 126.

WORD

Hymn: VU #388 Spirit Dancing *(verses 1, 2 & 3)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: VU #388 Spirit Dancing *(verses 5 & 6)*
(please remain seated)

Scripture Readings:

Matthew 17: 1-9

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: Transforming Spirit

Choral Offering: Fresh Winds of the Spirit
- David N. Davenport

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: The Church in China

Offering

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

Prayer of Dedication:

The gifts of God are everywhere.

May we praise God with our words.

The gifts of God are for everyone.

May we thank God with our music.

The gifts of God are forever.

May we seek God with our hearts.

Adapted from: Robin Wardlaw, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 50.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: MV #138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for March 5, 2017:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32 (VU p. 759)

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4 :1-11

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 - 2nd 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/Modératrice
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.