



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

February 4, 2018

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Dr. Emily Bamforth

Reader: Barb Foster

Pianist: Mary Anderson



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

"There are only two ways to live your life.

One is as though nothing is a miracle.

The other is as though everything is a miracle."

- Albert Einstein

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: VU #575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
(verses 1 & 3) *(please remain seated)*

Call to Worship

ONE: God of Knowledge

ALL: Open our eyes to your wondrous creation! Help us to discover all of the miracles, from the tiny to the earth shaking, which weave together the fabric of our amazing world.

ONE: God of Understanding

ALL: Help us to recognize our skills and talents and to use them as you intend. We know that you are in every decision we make and in every creation we craft.

ONE: God of Wisdom

ALL: Too often, we do not stop to think how the things we do may harm other people or our world. Sometimes we know, but do not care. Help us to listen to our hearts, to each other, and to you, striving to do what is wise.

Worship Schedule

Lenten Movie Series

Feb 11	Transfiguration	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 18	Lent One – Darkest Hour	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 25	Lent Two – Lady Bird - with baptism	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 4	Lent Three – The Post	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Recent Events

Friday, February 2 – Peter Griemann Funeral Service – Officiated by Peggy Worrell

Call to Government: Help End Libya's Slave Trade



The United Church of Canada is calling on the government to live out its promise to help end criminal, inhuman trade of Africans in Libya.

In November of last year, a video surfaced online of men appearing to be sold at auction in Libya. The footage caused outcry in all corners of the globe, and focused international attention on the exploitation of migrants and refugees in the North African country.

As such, in solidarity with Mission & Service partners in Africa such as the [All Africa Conference of Churches \(AACC\)](#), The United Church of Canada is urging the Canadian government to fulfill its promise of working "to eradicate human trafficking and support all international efforts to bring those who prey on vulnerable people to justice."

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ONE: God of Love

ALL: Help us to use our senses to learn, our minds to understand, and our hearts to learn wisdom. Help us to do love.

Opening Hymn: MV #135 Called by Earth and Sky
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer (in unison)

**Creator God, when we think of awe, our minds stumble.
We think we're too busy for awe. We know too much to be in awe.
Yes, we feel awe before a mountain,
a mightily waterfall
a rare and magnificent animal.
We do not always feel awe before the blessings of every day.
Open our eyes, O God.
Help us to experience awe this week
in washing dishes,
in the pesky backyard squirrel,
in our daily commute
in an evening stroll.
May we embrace awe as a precious spiritual gift.
Open our hearts to everyday miracles. Amen.**

WORD

Community Learning Time

Hymn: MV #37 Each Blade of Grass
(please remain seated)

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 40:21-31: "Have you not known? Have you not heard?"
Psalm 147:1-11 (VU pp.868-869 Part One): "Praise the Lord!"
Mark 1:21-39: Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law

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

Reflection: Living Miracles

Choral Offering: Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray
- Harry T. Burleigh

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: A Passion for Learning

Offering

Offertory Hymn: VU #81 As With Gladness Men of Old (verse 3)
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

Receive our gifts, giver of every good and perfect gift, as signs of our love and devotion to you and your Creation. Use them, and us, to bring your Good News to the World. Amen

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #282 Long Before the Night
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #964 Go Now in Peace

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for February 11, 2018

2 Kings 2: 1-12
Psalm 50:1- 6 (VU p. 775)
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9: 2-9

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Moderator Jordan Cantwell has written to the Prime Minister (see letter), urging him to commit to specific principles in how the government responds to the illegal trade of migrants globally, including in Libya.

As people of faith, the United Church is called to stand in solidarity with migrant workers and African partners in unequivocally condemning this abhorrent treatment of fellow human beings, made in the image of God. The full statement by the All Africa Conference of Churches is available [here](#).

The United Church is committed to working with partners around the world to protect, promote, and support the rights of migrant workers who are vulnerable to human trafficking and other abuses.

For more information, please contact:

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