



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

January 15, 2017

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reading: Marie Andrews

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*The place God calls you to  
is the place where your deep gladness and  
the world's deep hunger meet.*

*- Frederick Buechner*

### 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: There's a pulling in our hearts,

**ALL: calling us here.**

ONE: There's anticipation and wondering,

**ALL: calling us here.**

ONE: There's thirst and hunger,

**ALL: calling us here.**

ONE: In gratitude, let us praise God together.

From: Sheryl McLeod, *Gathering* Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016/17, page 41.

### Opening Hymn: VU #238 How Great Thou Art (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

*(please stand as you are able)*

## Worship Schedule

January 22	Unity in Diversity - Communion	- Rev. Annette Taylor
January 29	Blessed Are ....	- Rev. Annette Taylor
February 5	Lost and Found	- Jim Worrell

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### Recent Events

Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> – Yvonne Mohagen Memorial Service

## Round the Table

*Sharing stories of life, faith, and ministry in the United Church and beyond.*

## Community Connections Through Art



Art has always played an important part in churches throughout the ages, ranging from simple sculptures to Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam* on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

The Rev. Jim Keenan of [Bradford United Church](#) in Bradford, Ontario, recognizes the important intersections between art and religion. "A healthy arts community is integral to the spiritual and overall health of the community and the overall well-being of its residents," he says.

Since there is a shortage of performance and exhibition spaces in Bradford, Keenan spearheaded a drive to turn the sanctuary and hall of his church into the "[Bradford Arts Centre.](#)" *(see back of bulletin)*

**Morning Prayer & Jesus' Prayer**  
**Ground of our Being, you touch our lives**  
**with love and mystery.**  
**We come to this place today,**  
**hoping to see your power working through us.**  
**Help us to be open to your Word,**  
**and willing to answer your call.**

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 27.

## WORD

**Hymn: MV #161 I Have Called You by Your Name**  
*(verses 1 & 3) (please remain seated)*

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: MV #161 I Have Called You by Your Name**  
*(verse 4) (please remain seated)*

**Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7**

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: Following the Call**

**Choral Offering: Come Follow Me**  
*- Words by Sally K. Albrecht &*  
*Music by Jay Althouse*

## RESPONSE

**Minute for Mission: Truth & Reconciliation**

**Offering**

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

**Prayer of Dedication:**  
**In the name and in the spirit of Jesus**  
**we bring our gifts to you, O God.**  
**Help us to give with them**  
**a ready mind,**  
**a willing spirit, and**  
**a joyful heart.**

**Amen.**

From: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 49.

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: VU #509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky**  
*(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 January 22, 2017:

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (VU pp. 753-755)  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

*“But beware of this about callings:  
they may not lead us where we intended to go or  
even where we want to go.  
If we choose to follow, we may have to be willing to  
let go of the life we already planned and  
accept whatever is waiting for us.  
And if the calling is true,  
though we may not have gone where we intended,  
we will surely end up where we need to be.”*  
— Steve Goodier

With its curved wooden pews and old plaster, he said the sanctuary of the church offers superb acoustics, and seating for up to 200 people.

Churches across the land may want to look at Bradford United, he said, to see how a small congregation “can rediscover themselves, and engage the surrounding community.” The centre’s success also shows how a small church can leverage money and guidance from [Embracing the Spirit](#) and the [Edge network](#), to revitalize their own ministries.

After a committee of congregation members decided that the best way to reach out to the community was through art, they approached Embracing the Spirit for funding. A \$500 grant allowed the church to set up a community roundtable, where area artists discussed what an art centres in Bradford should offer. In order to gauge the wider public’s interest in the arts, a grant of \$1,500 from Embracing the Spirit was used to plan and run three art-related events, with the marketing for those events branding the church as the Bradford Arts Centre.

More than 75 people came out to a Beer & Bach night at the centre, including Bradford’s mayor. The other two events were a Carrot Fest and a play reading.

“All the events were very successful,” said Keenan, noting that the events attracted new faces to the church. “Theologically, we started to interact with people we otherwise would not be connected to,” he said.

[Read More about Bradford United](#)

[Read More Inspiring Stories from Round the Table](#)