



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

January 22, 2017

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reading: Janet Keene

Pianist: Joan Williamson

Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

It is urgent that all people of faith and goodwill unite and muster our collective spiritual resources to resist the growing fear and division that are spreading among us.

- The Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell

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: As children of God, we celebrate the beauty and individual worth of all creation.

ALL: We believe in God:

who created each of us,

who breathed into us our uniqueness,

ONE: who delights in who we are, and what we can still become.

ALL: We believe in the love of God:

who laughs with us in our joy,

who cries with us in our pain,

Worship Schedule

January 29	Blessed Are	- Rev. Annette Taylor
February 5	Lost and Found	- Jim Worrell
February 12	Black History Month	- Lay-led Service
February 19	Living the Holy Life	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Recent Events

Tuesday, January 17th – Elizabeth Mattice Funeral Service

I Love Donald Trump

A Message from Moderator Jordan Cantwell

Choosing to love even those whose words and actions are filled with hate and division does not mean accepting their behaviour or tolerating injustice.

Published on January 16, 2017



We all have known times where words fail us— either because we don't know what to say or because we can't bring ourselves to say what needs to be said.

This week is one of those times for me. As the President-elect of the United States prepares for his inauguration on Friday I need to say, "I love Donald Trump."

Those words are very hard for me to say, but I am striving to genuinely feel them in my heart. Although I have serious misgivings about his policies and pronouncements, he is a child of God, just like me, so I must treat him with dignity, respect, and love.

(continued on back of bulletin)

ONE: who wants all creation to seek peace, reconciliation,
and love for each other.

**ALL: We believe in the justice of God
as revealed in scripture, and
through the lives of prophets of yesterday and today.**

ONE: Let us celebrate the God of life and love and justice.
Let us worship.

Adapted from: *Shaping Sanctuary*, page 92.

Opening Hymn: MV #1 Let Us Build a House
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer & Jesus' Prayer

**Soften our touch, O God,
for your creation suffers from warring and pollution
and your people reach out for help and solace.**

**Encourage and strengthen us with your wisdom
until we become like You:
fashioners of justice and love.**

**May we have hands open for joy and peace
gathering blessings for all.**

Adapted from: *Shaping Sanctuary*, page 96.

WORD

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Choral Offering: Everything is Beautiful
- by Ray Stevens

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

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: Unity in Diversity

Hymn: MV #178 Who is My Mother
(please stand as you are able seated)

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Campus Ministry

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.

Celebration of Communion
(Chant: MV #202 Bread for the Journey)

Closing Hymn: MV #145 Draw the Circle Wide
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for January 29, 2017:

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15 (VU p.736)
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

I know that some of you reading this do not share my reservations about Donald Trump, while others do. Our political diversity is gift to celebrate. But regardless of our political differences, as Christians, we share a common commitment to live out the gospel values of love and justice.

Many people in both Canada and the United States are experiencing extreme levels of fear and anxiety right now, sparked in large part by the rhetoric and behaviour of the President-elect as well as the political records of some of his recent appointees. Members of vulnerable minority communities are worried that their rights and safety are in jeopardy. This affects all of us, for the health of any society is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable members.

History shows that political and social movements in the United States have a significant impact on attitudes and behaviours in Canada. We have already seen a spike in acts of violence and discrimination toward minorities in this country. In a single week, immediately following the US election, five incidents of hate crimes targeting Jews, Muslims, and people of colour were reported in our nation's capital.

Here is where we must lay aside our partisan politics and recognize that we need each other's strength, wisdom, and friendship if we are going to stop the rising tide of hate that threatens to wash over us.

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