



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

January 28, 2018

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reader: Shirley Dyck

Pianist: Mary Anderson



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*Man's enemies are not demons,
but human beings like himself.*

- Lao Tzu

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: VU #96 Will You Come and See the Light

(verses 1 & 5) (please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: People of God, look around
and see the faces of those we know and love:

**ALL: neighbours and friends, sisters and brothers –
a community of kindred hearts.**

ONE: People of God, look around
and see the faces of those we hardly know:

**ALL: strangers, visitors, forgotten friends –
the ones who need an outstretched hand.**

ONE: People of God, look around
and see all the images of God assembled here.

ALL: In me, in you, in each of us.

ONE: People of God, come.

Let us worship together.

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, pg 21.

Worship Schedule

Feb 4	Miracles	- Emily Bamforth
Feb 11	Transfiguration Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 18	Lent One	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 25	Lent Two	- Rev. Annette Taylor - with baptism

Recent Events

Sat. January 27 - Crystal O'Donnell-Schuett Celebration of Life

Boundary Commission Interim Report



The Boundaries Commission is proposing 17 regional councils to replace Conferences and presbyteries.

After extensive consultations across the church, the [interim report](#) from the Boundaries Commission is proposing 17 regional councils be established on

January 1, 2019, if Remit 1 (Three Council Model) is passed at the 43rd General Council in July 2018.

A map showing the boundary lines for the new regional councils across the country is available online. Each pastoral charge is colour-coded and identified by shape in relation to its regional council in [this map](#).

One significant early decision of the Commission was to honour a request from the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle. They had prepared the "Calls to the Church" document regarding the future place of the Indigenous Church within The United Church of Canada (pages 56–67 of the complete [GCE Workbook November 18-20 2017](#).)
(continued on back of bulletin)

Opening Hymn: VU #395 Come In, Come In, and Sit Down
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer and Jesus' Prayer

Ground of our Being
we are at the beginning of a new day.
May we be filled with courage
so today's uncertainties may not overwhelm us.
May we be filled with love,
so differences will not divide us.
May we be made new
so the past will not enslave us.
Holy Mystery,
on this day we open ourselves
to the power of your grace.

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 28.

WORD

Hymn: VU #365 Jesus Loves Me (vs. 1-3)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #365 Jesus Loves Me (verse 1 again)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:21-28

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: Unclean Spirits

Choral Offering: Everything is Beautiful
by Ray Stephens

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Celebrating United Church Women

Offering

Offertory Hymn: VU #55 In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

Ever-present God,
with this offering, we present ourselves:
all that we have been,
all that we are,
all that we shall become,
and our resolve to walk in your way.
Accept us and our offering.
Amen.

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 50.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #697 O For a World
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #964 Go Now in Peace

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for February 4, 2018

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11,20c (VU pp.868-869 Part One)
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:21-39

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Consistent with these Calls, the Caretakers asked the Commission to honour the intent of the Indigenous Church to engage in a distinct process to decide their relationships within the new church structure.

Feedback and suggestions on this interim decision will be accepted until **January 31, 2018**, at remits@united-church.ca. If any church court (pastoral charge, presbytery, Conference) has a suggestion for a specific change, that court's governing body must pass a motion naming the requested change. The motion can then be e-mailed to regchange@united-church.ca by January 31, 2018.

The Commission will receive and study all feedback and make decisions on all the requested changes. It will release its final report no later than March 15, 2018, outlining the final boundaries of the new regional councils.

Boundaries Commission Chairperson, the Rev. Andrew Richardson, hosted a YouTube Live event on the Commission's processes on January 15, 2018. It was recorded and is available on www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada.