



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

June 11, 2017

First Sunday after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reading: Fran Jackson

Pianist: Mary Anderson

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection:

*I come into the presence of still water
and I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*
- Wendell Berry

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: We have been given this beautiful earth,
all that grows, all that lives upon it.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ONE: We have been given breath to live and
spirit to sing.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ONE: We are gathered into this community
of care and worship.

**ALL: Let us celebrate God's presence with love,
thanksgiving, and praise.**

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page. 22.

Summer Worship Schedule

A Journey through Genesis

June 18	Aboriginal Sunday - Baptism & Father's Day	- Rev. Annette Taylor
June 25	Refugee Sunday - Celebration of Refugee Sponsorship	- Rev. Annette Taylor
July 2	Canada Sunday (150 th)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
July 9	Isaac's Story	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Prayer Request from partner, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)



Violence erupted May 23 on the southern island in the Philippines; Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared a 60-day period of martial law in Mindanao after gunmen linked to ISIS laid siege to the major city of Marawi. Dansalan College, an educational institution of the UCCP,

was attacked, burned, and 7 personnel taken hostage.

Rev Rannieh Mercado of the UCCP's National Secretariat wrote: "Your standing with us becomes a source of strength and encouragement as we confront this challenge to pursue and witness for peace based on justice."

Please see the [original call for prayers here](#).

On May 27 the UCCP sent an [update requesting our continued prayers](#), noting that seven of their staff remain hostages.

Opening Hymn: VU #296 This is God's Wondrous World
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer and Jesus' Prayer
Ground of Our Being, the air smells good today,
straight from the mysteries
within the inner courts of God.

A grace like new clothes
thrown across the garden,
free medicine for everybody.

The trees in their prayer,
the birds in praise,
the first blue violets kneeling.

Whatever came from Being
is caught up in being,
drunkenly forgetting the way back.

From: Rumi, *Earth Prayers*, page 40.

WORD

Hymn: VU #248 When Long Before Time (*verses 1 to 4*)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time **Melanie Davis**

Hymn: VU #248 When Long Before Time (*verses 5 & 6*)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

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: In the Beginning

Choral Offering: Beauty All Around Us
Lisa Elliot/Edwin M. Wilmington

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: The Healing Fund is Changing Lives

Offering

Offertory Hymn: MV #156 Dance with the Spirit (*sung twice*)
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication:
From all that dwells below the skies,
let faith and hope with joy arise;
let beauty, truth, and good be sung
through every land, by every tongue. Amen.
From: Unitarian Prayer, *Earth Prayers*, page 363.

Prayers of the People

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

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: Go Now in Peace
Don Besig & Nancy Price

Sung Grace: MV #193 God Bless to Us Our Bread

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for June 18, 2017:

Genesis 18:1-15, (21 :1-7)

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19 (VU p.836)

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23)

**As communities mark Pride celebrations,
may God inspire us to build bridges of hope and love
rather than walls of hatred and fear.**



During the month of June, thousands of people in Canada will be participating in Pride activities celebrating the lives and freedom of LGBTQ+ people. That won't be happening in Chechnya, or in Uganda, Zambia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and many other

countries.

News media over the last few months have been filled with stories about the detentions, torture, and murders of gay men in Chechnya. Described as a systemic anti-LGBT purge, the men are allegedly being held in what human rights groups are calling concentration camps. It has been reported that families of gay men are being told to “wash the shame away” by killing their children, or the state will intervene.

The United Church of Canada strongly condemns the violence happening against LGBTQ+ people in Chechnya—as well as the daily violence and oppression experienced by LGBTQ+ people around the world.

The United Nations has called on the international community to confront the issue of anti-gay violence and discrimination. In June 2016 the UN Security Council issued a resolution condemning violence against LGBT people. Soon after, the UN Human Rights Council announced the appointment of an “independent expert” to monitor LGBT violence around the world.

[Read More](#)