



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

March 11, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reader: Sharon Veer

Pianist: Mary Anderson



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

To know yourself as

the Being underneath the thinker,

the stillness underneath the mental noise,

the love and joy underneath the pain,

is freedom, salvation, enlightenment.

– Eckhart Tolle

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: MV #81 Love Us into Fullness

(all 3 verses) (please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: Lent can be a journey,
together and alone.

**ALL: Lent can be temptation
for each and everyone.**

ONE: Lent can be a challenge
to see with more than eyes.

**ALL: Lent can be a pathway,
through sunset to sunrise.**

ONE: Let us celebrate God's presence
as we travel together on this Lenten journey.

Adapted from: Walter Murray, *Gathering* Lent/Easter 2018, page 28.

Worship Schedule

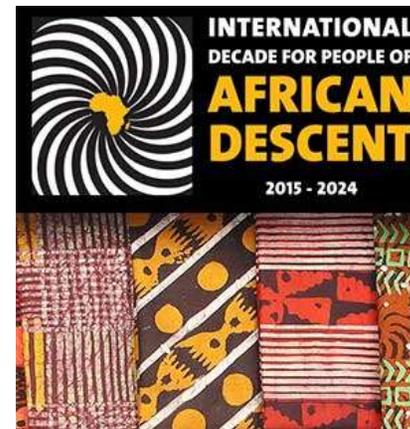
Mar 18	Lent Five – The Shape of Water - Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 25	Palm Sunday - Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 29	Maundy Thursday (7 pm) - Adele Heise
Mar 30	Good Friday (10:30 am) - Norma Hain
Apr 1	Easter Sunrise (6:45 am) - Rev. Annette Taylor & Adele Heise
Apr 1	Easter Sunday - Rev. Annette Taylor

Recent Events

Friday, March 9th - Carolyn Moore Funeral Service

at Warren's Funeral Chapel

Decade for People of African Descent



Join The United Church of Canada and the United Church of Christ USA in promoting recognition and justice, for people of African descent.

The United Church of Canada and The United Church of Christ USA are jointly launching a commitment to the [United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent](#), which runs 2015–2024.

Nora Sanders, General Secretary of General Council, says, "I was excited when the senior leaders from both churches decided to focus on the UN Decade as part of our joint mission work.

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Opening Hymn: MV #79 Spirit, Open My Heart
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer and Jesus' Prayer

Holy Mystery,
we like the idea of walking with Jesus.
It feels good to step alongside
someone we love and admire.
But this Lenten journey demands
more than admiration.
We will be challenged to
let go of our coldness and fear
and surrender to Love's healing power.
May our Lenten paths be blessed,
our imaginations ignited and
our hearts opened.
So that, for each one of us, this can be
a journey of questions,
a journey of reflections, and
a journey of discovery.

Adapted from: Susan Ivany, *Gathering Lent/Easter 2018*, page 31.

WORD

Hymn: MV #89 Love is the Touch *(verses 1,2 & 3)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #89 Love is the Touch *(verse 4)*
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: John 3:14-21

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: Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri

Gift of Music: A Little Love
- Natalie Sleeth

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Thank You from Green Bay

Offering

Offertory Hymn: VU #537 Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands
(verses 1 & 2) (please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

During this season of Lent,
we offer ourselves to you.

Take us, and all we are.
Transform us into people whose compassion
knows no boundaries,
and whose willingness to serve
is guided by your Spirit. Amen.

From: *The Whole People of God* - February 18, 2018 Worship Resources, page 4.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: Out of the Depths, O God We Call to You
VU #611 *(please stand as you are able)*

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #649 Walk with Me *(sing chorus twice)*

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for March 18, 2018

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 31:1-12 (VU pp. 776-777)

Hebrews 5 :5-10

John 12 :20-33

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I also appreciate that our federal government recognizes that the UN Decade is important work for us all.” Sanders reflects that “this represents a significant exploration of building racially just communities together.”

“The International Decade comes at an important time in our history as we strive to bring healing to our communities,” adds Michael Blair, Executive Minister of the Church in Mission Unit. “I look forward to possibilities in both our church and society.”

The two churches are not the only bodies who have committed to the UN Decade. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently [announced that the Government of Canada](#) will officially recognize the decade, and [remarked that Canadians must realize](#) that anti-Black racism and unconscious bias do exist in this country.

The UN identifies people of African descent as a group whose rights need to be “protected and promoted.” As part of our full communion agreement, The United Church of Canada and [the United Church of Christ](#) will work together on strategies to address that through common resources and liturgies that advance [racial justice](#), [intercultural commitments](#), equity, and diversity. Watch for more resources, including a feature article in the winter 2018 edition of Mandate.