



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

March 19, 2017

### Lent Three – Arrival

Leading Worship: Annette Taylor

Reading: Stacie Noble-Wiebe

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection:

*“The language of friendship is not words but meanings.”*

- Henry David Thoreau

*“No matter what your cultural sophistication or what language you speak, everyone can understand images.”*

- Tibor Kalman

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Sharing of Peace/Prelude

#### Lighting of the Candles

#### Centering Hymn: VU #121 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

*(Lent 3 – sung twice) (please remain seated)*

#### Call to Worship

ONE: We are invited into a journey we call Lent.

ALL: **This is a time of repentance, of turning to God.**

ONE: We are invited into a journey we call Lent.

ALL: **This a time of reflection, of listening to the Spirit.**

ONE: We are invited into a journey we call Lent.

ALL: **This is a time of refreshment, of coming to the well.**

ONE: We are invited into a journey we call Lent.

ALL: **Let us continue our journey together; let us follow Jesus.**

#### Opening Hymn: VU #222 Come, Let Us Sing

*(please stand as you are able)*

## Worship Schedule

*(Lenten Movie Series)*

March 26	Lent Four – Hidden Figures	- Rev. Annette Taylor
	- with Communion	
April 2	Lent Five – Zootopia	- Sunday School & Youth
April 9	Palm Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
April 13	Maundy Thursday	- Adele Heise

### Today is

### Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

Please stay and join us for our

**Potluck Lunch.**

## Moderator: Senator Beyak's Comments on Residential Schools

Published on March 10, 2017



During a Senate debate on March 7, 2017, Senator Lynn Beyak made some comments concerning the Indian residential schools system. These comments, which were widely reported in the press, have the potential to cause great harm to survivors of residential schools and to undermine the crucial work that the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\)](#) have put before all Canadians.

Indigenous peoples and organizations have responded to Senator Beyak's comments. As one of the parties responsible for the operation of residential schools, The United Church of Canada also feels a responsibility to respond.  
*(see back of bulletin)*

**Morning Prayer**

**We come to you, O God, our River of Life:**  
may we drink deeply, and receive your grace.  
**We come to you, O God, our Rock of Ages:**  
may we stand in trust, and receive your strength.  
**We come to you, O God, our Source of Compassion:**  
may we open our hearts, and receive your healing love.

From: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 27.

**Prayer of Jesus** – sung version  
- music by *Leona Gibney*

**WORD**

**Hymn: MV #87 Water Flowing from the Mountain**  
(verses 1 & 2) (please remain seated)

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: MV #87 Water Flowing from the Mountain**  
(verse 3) (please remain seated)

**Scripture Reading:** John 4:5-30  
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: Arrival**

**Choral Offering: Down to the River to Pray**  
- *African-American Spiritual*

**RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: Care for Creation**

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn: VU #697 O for a World** (verse 2)  
(please stand as you are able)

**Prayer of Dedication:**  
**Ground of our Being,**  
**bless and transform all that we offer:**  
our limited wealth,  
our faltering steps,  
our brokenness,  
our hope, our risking, our hearts,  
**that all we are may be used for your service**  
**and that we may be a blessing in your world. Amen**  
Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 157.

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: MV #163 River Run Deep**  
(please stand as you are able)

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing: VU #298 When You Walk from Here**  
(sung twice)

**Grace for Potluck Lunch VU #552 For Food in a World**

**Postlude**

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**Lectionary Readings for March 26, 2017:**

1 Samuel 16 :1-13                      Ephesians 5 :8-14  
Psalm 23 (VU pp. 747-749)      John 9:1-41

**Ministerial Lenten Worship** - Eastside Church of God  
Thursdays: 12:00 gather for worship; 12:30 lunch together

Date	Presider	Preacher	Lunch
March 23	Paul Israelson	Annette Taylor	First United
March 30	Linda Hall	Greg Kiel	St. Olaf
April 6	Bryon Bezanson	Joell Haugen	St. Stephen's

*(continued from previous page)*

Senator Beyak spoke of the “good intentions” behind the residential schools system. Thirty years ago, The United Church of Canada apologized to First Nations Peoples for our role in colonization and the destruction of their cultures and spiritualities. In the process of preparing, delivering, and attempting to live out that Apology, we have learned that “good intentions” are never enough, and that to offer such words in explanation is damaging and hurtful.

The United Church of Canada participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission not just as part of a legal agreement but also as part of a moral and ethical commitment to understand the impact of our role in the residential schools system, to atone for it, and to participate in healing and building of a new relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

As the TRC Calls to Action make clear, education of all Canadians on the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada, the truth of the residential school story, and how the legacy of residential schools continues to play out in society are crucial. Without such education and understanding, we cannot hope for a new relationship. Senator Beyak’s comments remind us not to lose sight of that objective. The United Church of Canada is also concerned that such statements may serve to re-traumatize residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. It is our hope that, moving forward, we will as a society be mindful of the ongoing healing work of Indigenous communities and recognize that we all have a role in this. May that help guide our words as well as our actions.

The Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell  
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

[Read more](#)