



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

March 26, 2017

Lent Four – Hidden Figures

Leading Worship: Annette Taylor

Reading: Laurel Howell

Pianist: Sharon Veer

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection:

“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.”

- Franklin Thomas

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 healing, of having our eyes opened.

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

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

Worship Schedule

April 2	Lent Five – Zootopia	- Sunday School & Youth
April 9	Palm Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
April 13	Maundy Thursday (5:30p.m.) - Adele Heise - supper & service	
April 14	Good Friday (10:30a.m.)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
April 16	Easter Sunday - with baptisms	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Recent Events

Tuesday March 21 - Eunice Larson Funeral Service

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)

Opening Hymn: VU #371 Open My Eyes, That I May See
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer

**Loving God, open our hearts
that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.
Open our lips,
that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.
Open our eyes
that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.
Unclench our hands
that we may reach out to one another in love.**
Adapted from: Celebrate God's Presence, page 29.

Prayer of Jesus – sung version
- music by Leona Gibney

WORD

Hymn: Help Us Accept Each Other *(verses 1,2 & 3)*
- words by Fred Kaan, music by Jim Strathdee
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: Help Us Accept Each Other
(verse 4) (please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: John 9:1-3, 6-17, 24-41

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: Hidden Figures

Choral Offering: Stranger, Standing at My Door
- words by Shirley Erena Murray &
music by Ron Klusmeier

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Racial Justice

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.

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

Closing Hymn: MV #154 Deep in Our Hearts
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for April 2, 2017:

Ezekiel 37 :1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8 :6-11
John 11 :1-45

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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

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