



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

March 4, 2018

### Third Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reader: Maxine Olmsted

Pianist: Mary Anderson



## Worship Schedule

*Lenten Movie Series*

Mar 11	Lent Four – Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri - Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 18	Lent Five – The Shape of Water - Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 25	Palm Sunday - Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 29	Maundy Thursday - Adele Heise

### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection

*Truth is not a set of propositions in the Bible, but a cluster of relationships. Those are relationships of dignity, well-being, security and respect. When power violates those, then what those who administer such power learn is that they cannot finally withstand the force of truth.*

- Walter Brueggemann ([from religionnews.com](http://fromreligionnews.com))

#### 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.**

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.

## Moderator: Address Racism, Privilege after Stanley Verdict



**We will never realize the promise of what Canada can be unless we all work to make it so.**

On Friday, February 9, 2018, The United Church of Canada posted a response to the good news that

Bill C-262, an act to harmonize Canadian law with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, had passed second reading. Optimistically, perhaps naively, we titled it "[A Promise of What Canada Can Be.](#)"

I say "naively" because later that day, the reality of what Canada is was made clear when a not-guilty verdict was returned in the second-degree murder trial of Gerald Stanley. Stanley had been charged in the death of Colten Boushie, a 22-year-old man from Red Pheasant First Nation in Treaty 6 (Saskatchewan), who with a group of friends turned up on Stanley's farm late in the afternoon of August 9, 2016.

*(continued on back of bulletin)*

**Opening Hymn: MV #142 Oh a Song Must Rise**  
*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.  
There will be times when we must speak,  
even when fear & trembling  
would silence us.  
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: Put Your Hand in the Hand**  
*(please remain seated)*

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: Put Your Hand in the Hand** *(chorus only)*

**Scripture Reading: John 2:13-22**

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: The Post**

**Gift of Music: Truth to Power** - James McLauchlan  
*- OneRepublic (Ryan Tedder & T Bone Burnett)*

## RESPONSE

**Minute for Mission: Building Resilience and Hope  
in Indigenous Children**

**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: VU #646 We Are Marching**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Commissioning & Benediction**

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

**Postlude**

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**Lectionary Readings for March 11, 2018**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107 :1-3,17-22 (VU p. 831 Parts One & Two)

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

*(continued from previous page)*

After a series of events, three gunshots were fired from a pistol handled by Stanley. Colten Boushie, who never left the vehicle he arrived in, was killed by a bullet to the head. Stanley was acquitted on the grounds that the gun accidentally fired a third time after two warning shots.

There has been much discussion in the court, media, and social media of the First Nations young adults' behaviour on the farm; of Gerald Stanley's and his son's response; and of the Stanleys' conduct after Colten Boushie's death.

What happened on that farm was preceded and followed by the racism and White privilege that are embedded in Canadian society. Those of us in the dominant culture are reluctant to name this. Similarly, those of us who are White are reluctant to acknowledge and confront our privilege.

Imagine the police conducting an armed search of your home as they tell you that your child has been shot and killed. I can't.

Imagine that your child has been shot and killed, and that everybody on the jury looks like the shooter. No one looks like you or your child. I can't.

The church is no stranger to racism and privilege; indeed, those beliefs drove the colonial policies to assimilate Indigenous Peoples that we, with the government, pursued in the running of Indian Residential Schools. Those beliefs persist in prejudices that non-Indigenous peoples may not even recognize they hold. And as the 2016 findings of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found, they remain in policies and structures that treat Indigenous peoples in Canada as lesser than others.

[Read more of the moderator's letter](#)