



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
September 3, 2017

### The Burning Bush

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Reading: Ann Wiebe  
Pianist: Mary Anderson

### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection

*"God does not choose people because of their ability, but because of their availability." — Brother Andrew*

*"Disability is a matter of perception. If you can do just one thing well, you're needed by someone." - Martina Navratilova*

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Sharing of Peace/Prelude

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Gathering Hymn: VU #381 Spirit of Life**  
*(please remain seated)*

#### Call to Worship

ONE: This is no ordinary place and no ordinary gathering.

**ALL: This is the place where Moses is set aflame with the holy Word of God.**

ONE: This is the place where the prophets cry out for peace and justice.

**ALL: This is the place where the Holy Mystery reaches into our innermost beings and offers us the splendour of God's love.**

ONE: This is no ordinary place and no ordinary gathering.

**ALL: This is a house of God and we have come to celebrate God's presence.**

Adapted from: Gregory Grale, *Worship for All Seasons II*, page 196.

## Worship Schedule

Sept 10	Welcome Back Sunday - with potluck lunch	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sept 17	Crossing the Sea	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Sept 24	Food in the Wilderness	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Oct 1	World Communion Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor

### Recent Events

August 31, 2017 – Russell Roszell Funeral Service  
September 2, 2017 – James Beattie Memorial Service

## Re-commit to Racial Justice and Equity a message from The United Church of Canada



justice and equity.

In the aftermath of the march by White supremacists and White nationalists in Virginia, the United Church calls its members to recommit themselves to challenging the systemic racism and accompany those working for racial

The United Church remains firmly committed to racial justice, equity, and intercultural engagement. The events in Charlottesville have only emphasized the imperative for these commitments.

A new blog post by Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall of Fort Saskatchewan Pastoral Charge calls the church to "[hold up a candle in the presence of racism.](#)"

It is time to re-commit to racial justice, equity, and to confronting White privilege and all of its manifestations. The church has [many resources](#) for people who want to become more involved in mending the world.

[Find out more](#)

**Opening Hymn: MV #37 Circle of God**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Morning Prayer and Jesus' Prayer**

**Ground of our Being,**

**we come seeking your disturbing presence  
and comforting peace.**

**We praise you for the joy**

**of being a part of your circle of life.**

**May your Spirit move within us**

**in this time of worship and**

**may our hearts and minds be open**

**to the transforming power of your love.**

*Adapted from Celebrate God's Presence, page 29.*

## **WORD**

**Hymn: MV #136 When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace**  
*(verses 1, 2, 3 & 4) (please remain seated)*

**Community Learning Time**

**Hymn: MV #136 When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace**  
*(verse 5) (please remain seated)*

**Scripture Readings:**

Exodus 3:1-15

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: Pulled Out of the Water**

**Hymn: MV #161 I Have Called You By Your Name**  
*verses 1,3,4) (please stand as you are able)*

## **RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: Educating Girls in China**

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn: VU #540 Grant us, God, the Grace**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**We bring our gifts to you, God.**

**Here is the work of our hands,**

**and here is the love of our hearts.**

**May they be accepted and used**

**in your work of peace and justice. Amen**

*Adapted from: Celebrate God's Presence, page 50.*

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: VU #509 Here I Am, Lord**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing: VU #649 Walk with Me** *(refrain sung twice)*

**Postlude**

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**A warm welcome to all  
who are worshipping with us today!**

If this is your first time with us,  
please be sure to sign one of our guest books.

**Lectionary Readings for September 10, 2017**

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149 (VU pp. 872-873)

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20



[Embracing the Spirit](#) is a learning network and innovation fund. It offers funding and support for innovation ideas hatched out of faith communities and communities in ministry.

If you have an idea that you want to launch, reach out and tell us about it! The next application date is **October 15, 2017**. Find out [more](#).

Here's one example of an idea that is underway:

The village of Wellington in Ontario's Prince Edward County is experiencing tremendous growth. But with growth comes other implications. There is a rising cost of living that has impacted the cost of going out for dinner to housing. Many seniors who have lived in Wellington all of their lives are now being forced out of their homes to lower-cost options.

[Wellington United Church](#) is in the heart of all of this change and seeing the evolving needs of the community through this transition. And they have embraced it!

The municipality had recently issued a request for proposal (RFP) for the arena that was in disrepair and had minimal use. The RFP asked developers to consider how to redevelop the land. Wellington United Church realized that they were in a unique position to use the arena for the community's evolving needs. With that purpose in mind, they submitted a proposal.

They won the RFP and are being given the land! The municipality and the church are now in discussions of how to transfer the land and get the redevelopment underway. Who knows what's next?