



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, April 22, 2018

Earth Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Reader: Eva Molyneux
Pianist: Mary Anderson



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*Wherever you are is home and the earth is paradise
Wherever you set your feet is holy land...
You don't live off it like a parasite.
You live in it, and it in you, or you don't survive.
And that is the only worship of God there is.
- Wilfred Pelletier and Ted Poole*

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Centering Hymn: VU #412 This is the Day (*verse one*)
(*please remain seated*)

Call to Worship

ONE: We are one flock,
ALL: we are called to be one in community.
ONE: We have boldness before God
ALL: because we know we are loved and known.
ONE: So, in the same way let us love.
ALL: Let us love each other and the earth.
ONE: Let us love not only in word or speech
ALL: but in truth and action.
ONE: Let us join together as one
ALL: to celebrate God's presence in us and in our world.

Adapted from: In Truth and Action – A Service for Earth Day 2018

<http://www.united-church.ca/worship-special-days/earth-sunday>

Worship Schedule

Apr 29	Philip & the Eunuch	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 6	Sing a New Song (with potluck)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 13	St. Andrew's College	- Youngjin Park
May 20	Pentecost (with communion)	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Lectionary Readings for April 29, 2018

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31 (VU p.746 Parts 3 & 4)
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Celebrate Earth Day 2018



Consume Less

Plastic pollution and its threat to nature and human health is a pressing concern. Reducing consumption is a moral imperative and will make you happy! Buying things and acquiring wealth does not make us happy.

Rather, connecting to others and our natural environment is the key to happiness—the mindset of sustainability!

Play More

For kids and adults, free play is our truest form of connection and happiness. Throughout April—Earth Month—Earth Day Canada is inviting you to **#EarthPLAY** for Earth Day!

[Find out More](#)

Hymn: VU #296 This is God's Wondrous World
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & Jesus' Prayer

**Holy Mystery, Creator and Giver of Life,
may our hearts and minds be open this morning
to the cries of the earth and the wisdom
of our indigenous neighbours, who wrote:**

**Teach your children
What we have taught our children –
that the earth is our mother.
Whatever befalls the earth
befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.
If men spit on the ground,
they spit upon themselves.**

**This we know.
The earth does not belong to us;
we belong to the earth.
This we know.
All things are connected
like the blood which unites one family.
All things are connected.**

**Whatever befalls the earth
befalls the sons and daughters of the earth.
We did not weave the web of life;
we are merely a strand in it.
Whatever we do to the web,
we do to ourselves.**

From: Chief Seattle, *Earth Prayers*, page 10.

WORD

Hymn: MV #37 Each Blade of Grass *(verses 1 & 2)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #37 Each Blade of Grass *(verse 3)*
(please remain seated)

Scripture:

1 John 3:16-24

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.

Psalm 23 (VU p.747) *(please stand as you are able as we sing)*

Reflection: Holy Ground

Gift of Music: What a Wonderful World

- George David Weiss & Bob Thiele

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Bringing Kids to Nature!

Offering

Offertory Hymn: MV #191 What Can I Do?
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

**Bless us, dark earth, as we give back
that which we have received
as we make a forest of blessing a ridge of blessing
for the future to grow upon. Amen.**

From: *Earth Prayers*, page 157.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: Take Off Your Shoes

- Jim Manley (please stand as you are able)

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Closing: MV #50 Alleluia *(sung three times)*

Postlude: Big Yellow Taxi - Joni Mitchell

About Earth Day Canada

Our Vision

Connecting people to nature on Earth Day and every day.

Our Mission

Earth Day Canada inspires and supports people across Canada to connect with nature and build resilient communities.

Founded in 1990, Earth Day Canada is a national charity that inspires and supports people across the country to connect with nature and build resilient communities. We lead an annual Earth Day campaign in conjunction with free, year-round, award-winning programs that get people of all ages outside, interacting with the natural environment — this, in turn, fosters an intrinsically motivated, enduring commitment to stewardship and conservation.

EDC works closely with school-aged children and youth through our renowned EcoKids program and new EarthPLAY initiative, and recognizes via our Hometown Heroes Awards those who are leading the way in making our planet healthier. We engage diverse communities in the environmental NGO sector with our Tapestry program and help our corporate partners achieve their sustainability goals with our growing employee engagement platform.

[Learn more about what we do](#)