



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, January 1, 2023



### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Music Director: James McLaughlan  
Reader: Patti McCleary

#### GATHERING

##### Moment for Reflection

*"A refugee is someone who survived and  
who can create the future."  
– Amela Koluder*

##### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

##### Lighting the Christ Candle

##### Gathering Hymn: MV # 21 *Open Our Hearts*

- composed & sung by Jim & Jean Strathdee  
(please remain seated)

##### Call to Worship

ONE: Today is a new beginning,

**ALL: a new chance to be alive with faith,  
full of compassion,  
ready to shout our joy  
for God's good gifts.**

ONE: Let us begin this day  
in worship.

Written by: Catherine Tovell, *Worship for All Season II – Year A*, page 50.

##### Opening Hymn: VU #60 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

- sung by Amy van Wensem & Janet Watson  
(please stand as you are able)

## Worship Schedule

Jan 8	<i>Epiphany</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jan 15	<i>Baptism of Jesus</i> (followed by potluck lunch)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jan 22	<i>Called by Jesus</i> (with communion)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jan 29	<i>Land Acknowledgements</i>	- Affirming Ministry Working Group

#### Recent Events

December 21, 2022 – Cliff Chan Memorial Service at  
Warren's Funeral Home Chapel

## A Holiday Message from Moderator Carmen Lansdowne in Broadview Magazine



In her [latest Broadview article](#), Moderator Carmen Lansdowne shares a holiday message on why the Advent season is her favourite time in the liturgical year, the struggles of her past, and the magic of new beginnings, and urges all of us "to bear fruit worthy of repentance."

[Image credit: Neil Webb/ Broadview Magazine]

## Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Beginner of all things,  
on this New Year's Day  
begin again in us:

take these tired limbs and rouse them to dance,  
from sunbreak to sundown, with your joy.

Bless us, O Blessed One:  
that we may;

shake off our dis-ease;  
know the splendour of your love  
and offer it to one another.

Adapted from: Gregory Grace, *Worship for All Season II – Year B*, page 62.

## WORD

### Community Learning Time

Hymn: *If I Could Visit Bethlehem*

- sung by Jean & Jim Strathdee  
words by Brian Wren  
music by Hal Hopson

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

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: *Fleeing for Our Lives*

Choral Offering: *At the Door of the Year*

– words by Shirley Erena Murray  
music by Jim Strathdee

## RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *A Step Toward Peace*

## Offering Invitation

### Prayer of Dedication

All that we are is yours, Loving God,  
all that we have been and all that we will be.  
Bless our gifts of money, time and talent  
that they may be used to build  
your reign of peace and justice on earth.

Written by Annette Taylor.

Prayers of the People (text: 306-750-8925)

Closing Hymn: VU #59 *Joy to the World*

- sung by First U.C. in Kelowna B.C.  
(please stand as you are able)

### Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Holy is the Night*

– by Jim Strathdee

### Postlude

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### Scripture Readings for Epiphany - January 8, 2023

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7,10-14 (VU p.790 Parts 1 & 2)

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

### Prayers Cycles

#### Ministerial

Family Community Church

#### Living Skies Regional Council

Estevan, North Portal, Portal (ND, USA)

Star City, Swift Current, First

Yellow Grass United Lutheran Partnership

Yorkton: St. Andrew's

Moose Jaw: Zion

## Letter from General Secretary; Call to Action

The Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada, has [written to](#) Winnipeg Chief of Police Danny Smyth asking that he revisit his decision to not search the Prairie Green landfill for the remains of Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran.

They are among four Indigenous women recently identified as victims of a serial killer, more lives lost to Canada's national crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Centering the voices of Indigenous families and communities who wish to see Moran, Mercedes, Rebecca Contois, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe honoured and respected, the General Secretary noted that the church "believe[s] that everyone, created in the image of God, has a right to be treated with respect and protected from harm. This extends from life through death." The Executive of Prairie-to-Pine Regional Council has also sent a [letter](#) to the police chief.

You are invited to share [the letter](#) and add your own voices to the call for a search.

[More Info](#) (including addresses for letters).