



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, January 29, 2023

Land Acknowledgements



Leading Worship: Affirming Ministry Working Group
Music Director: James McLaughlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

“In the Western tradition there is a recognized hierarchy of beings, with, of course, the human being on top—the pinnacle of evolution, the darling of Creation—and the plants at the bottom. But in Native ways of knowing, human people are often referred to “the younger brothers of Creation.””

— Robin Wall Kimmerer

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #21 *Open Our Hearts*
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

Creator has placed each and every one of us here with purpose!
**Let us praise Creator for the earth below our feet.
For Mother Earth sustains us, and
all creation cries out for justice.**

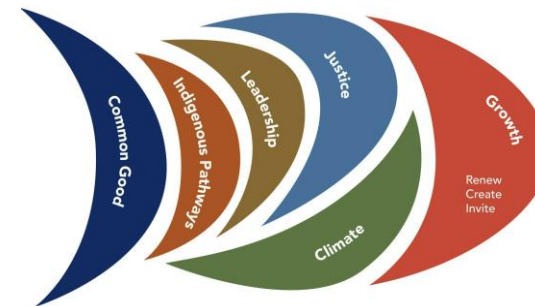
Creator has given us the eastern direction:
the direction of vision, children, and
the sun that rises on us each day.

**Let us view the world with child-like wonder—
full of awe and humility.**

Worship Schedule

Feb 5	<i>This Light of Mine</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 12	<i>Fishers of People</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 19	<i>Written in Stone</i>	- Norma Hain
Feb. 26	<i>Lent One</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

An Exciting New Chapter for EDGE



An exciting new chapter for EDGE has begun! As the United Church embraces a new [Call and Vision](#) and makes Growth a key priority, the denominational office will integrate the expertise, energy, and ethos of its semi-autonomous innovation arm—EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development.

As a result of an audit of EDGE, which included examining how it connects to the new Strategic Plan, the work and staff of EDGE will be integrated into the core work of the General Council Office in 2023. Read the [full news story](#).

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

**Thankful for the new day
that dawns on us each and every morning,
we give thanks for God who gives us new mercies every day.**

Creator has given us the southern direction:
the direction of honesty, adolescence, and growth.

**Help us to speak only the truth, and
open our hearts to hear the stories of others.
Inspire us to grow in the image of Christ
who teaches us to walk the good path.**

Creator has given us the western direction:
the direction of adulthood, harvesting, and
deep spiritual understanding.

**Give us the tools we need
to act on the knowledge we are gathering,
allowing us to act with maturity and grace.**

Creator has given us the northern direction:
the direction of Elders, achievement, and
a deep connection to spirituality.

**Empower us to learn from the past, and
to move forward
to create your reign of peace and justice
here on Mother Earth.
Holy Spirit, give us the teachings we need
to correct any wrongs, and
to live lives full of love, peace, and hope.
Be with us now, Creator,
as we worship you in awe-filled praise. Amen.**

Adapted from: *Living on the Path of Respect* at [Indigenous | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](https://indigenous.theunitedchurch.ca)

Opening Hymn: MV #141 *We Are All One People*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (on video)
– Julie Pellessier- Lush, Poet Laureate of PEI
<https://youtu.be/PTm8PIHryYY>

WORD

Hymn: MV #39 *Mother Earth, Our Mother Birthing*
(verses 1 & 2) (please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: MV #39 *Mother Earth, Our Mother Birthing*
(verses 3 & 4)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:24-31
First Nations Creation Story

ONE: We read these texts so that in them
we may find wisdom for life.

ALL: **May we be open to the Wisdom
we understand and hear.**

Reflection: *Land Acknowledgements*

Choral Offering: *Fields of Praise*
– Words and music by Jim Strathdee

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Land Back*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

**Creator God, we ask you to bless these gifts,
which have been given in love.
May our gifts be used in many ways
to build good relations.
May your will be done through these gifts
and through us. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: MV #135 *Called by Earth and Sky*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

One: As God's united yet diverse peoples,
we go to become caring neighbours
to each other and to the earth.

All: For in Christ we are all kin.
We are called to be neighbours,
to share generously with each other.

One: As we learn more, respect more,
love more, we all grow and gain!

All: God as Creator will be our rock.
Christ and Spirit be our guides.

Choral Closing: MV #220 *Hope Shines as the Solitary Star*

Postlude

Scripture Readings for February 5, 2023

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)

Psalms 112:1-9, (10) (VU p. 834)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Arcola-Kisbey

Balgonie-McLean

Battleford