



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, January 8, 2023

Epiphany Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLaughlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary
Reader: Pat Dyck Bunkosky



Worship Schedule

Jan 15	<i>Baptism of Jesus</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jan 22	<i>Called by Jesus</i> (with communion & potluck lunch)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jan 29	<i>Land Acknowledgements</i>	- Affirming Ministry Working Group
Feb 5	<i>This Light of Mine</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

The point is not to take the world's opinion as a guiding star but to go one's way in life and working unerringly, neither depressed by failure nor seduced by applause.

— Gustav Mahler

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #71 *When the Wind of Winter Blows*
(verse 1) (please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: The Magi came from far off places,
following a star.

**ALL: We come to celebrate God's presence
and the star sheds light on our lives.**

ONE: The Magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

**ALL: We too bring gifts:
ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.**

ONE: Shepherds and Magi – the meek and the mighty –
all were welcome in Bethlehem.

**ALL: We too are welcome here in Bethlehem –
a place of renewal and rebirth.**

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 123.

Happy New Year!

A Message from General Council Staff



Happy New Year!

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed 2023.

Thank you for your support, your care,
and for all you do to bring the love of God
life in our world this year.

[Photo: Alain Audet from Pixabay]

Opening Hymn: VU #79 *Arise, Your Light Is Come*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer
Radiant God,
light for all people and all places,
by the guidance of a star you led the Magi
to the Christ Child.
by the light of faith
lead us to worship you in peace and love,
and guide us in your way.
Adapted from: Joan McMurtry, VU #86.

WORD

Hymn: VU #91 *The First Nowell* (verses 1, 2 & 3)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: VU #91 *The First Nowell* (verses 4 & 5)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12
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: *Guided by the Light*

Choral Offering: *Living in the Light*
– words & music by Linnea Good

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Food and Hygiene Kits for Ukraine*
(selected by Susan Jackson, Statistics)

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 #87 *I Am the Light of the World*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Scripture Readings for Baptism of Jesus – Jan. 15, 2023

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29 (VU p. 756)
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial
Full Gospel Church

Living Skies Regional Council
Assiniboia
Alameda
Avonlea, Blue Hill

New Anti-Racism App



In case you missed it, there's a [new anti-racism app](#) for youth available from The United Church of Canada. Jonisha Lewinson is one of a team of young adults who helped create it. Called AR4YT (short for Anti-Racism for Youth Training), the app—supported through your Mission & Service gifts—is aimed at 12-18 year olds and covers topics like the history of racism in Canada, White privilege, and how to get involved in anti-racism work. It is available at no cost on Google Play and the App Store.

[Photo courtesy of Jonisha Lewinson]