



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, February 19, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday

Leading Worship: Norma Hain
Music Director: James McLaughlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Reader: Judy Killaby



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*“Friendship with oneself is all important, because without it one cannot be friends with anyone else in the world.
Eleanor Roosevelt in Ladies Home Journal 1944*

If you don't love yourself, you cannot love others. If you have no compassion for yourself, you cannot develop compassion for others. The Dalai Lama quoted in Everyday Mindfulness 2016 Bounty Books

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #649 Walk with Me (*refrain only*)
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: Gather us in, ground us, ground us in you.

ALL: Today I come willing to re-create my beliefs about life.

ONE: Gather us in, ground us, ground us in you.

ALL: Today I come living freely in the flow of life.

ONE: Gather us in, ground us, ground us in you.

ALL: Today I come allowing life to love me.

Gather us in, ground us, ground us in you.

(Adapted from: Gather Us In – More Voices #7)

Worship Schedule

Lenten Movie Series

Feb 26	<i>Everything Everywhere All at Once</i> (Lent One)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 5	<i>The Banshees of Inisherin</i> (Lent Two) (Annual Meeting)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 12	<i>Tar</i> (Lent Three) PIE Day	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 19	<i>The Fablemans</i> (Lent Four)	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Emergency Funds for Turkey and Syria



On Monday, February 6, a series of powerful earthquakes struck southern Türkiye (Turkey) near the border with Syria. The quakes caused extensive damage and loss of lives. At time of writing, the death toll

has surpassed 20,000 people, and thousands more are missing. The winter weather makes the situation even more dire for people who are without shelter, warm clothes, blankets, water, and food. Some of the people affected by the earthquake were already displaced by conflict. Today, people need emergency shelter, blankets, mattresses, clean water, food, and hygiene items.

You can donate

- directly to The UCC's [Emergency Response](#) or
- give to First United specifying *Turkey & Syria Fund* in the memo on your cheque or the comment section of your e-transfer. We will forward your funds to The United Church of Canada's Emergency Response.

Opening Hymn: VU #506 *Take My Life and Let It Be*
(please stand as you are able)

Gathering Prayer

Source of all Being we praise you for the morning, our hope springs forth with each new day. With each new beginning we praise you with prayers and promises that we will find joy in work and in play

Source of all Being we praise you for landscapes of mountains and valleys, rivers and lakes, for seas and prairies where our souls find healing and peace.

Source of all Being we praise you for the Spirit, our Comforter, our daily Friend. Searcher stay near us and Teacher guide us. Amen

(Adapted from God We Praise You In the Morning, Jim and Jean Strathdee)

Prayer of Jesus - Paraphrase p. 916

Special Music: *River of Happiness*

Written by: Dolly Parton

Sung by: Sarah Allin and company

WORD

Hymn: VU #87 *I Am the Light of the World*
(verses 1 & 2) (please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #87 *I Am the Light of the World*
(verses 3 & 4) (please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Exodus 24: 12-18, Matthew 17: 1-9

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: *Written in Stone*

Choral Offering: *Come Follow Me*
– Words by Sally K. Albrecht &
Music by Jay Althouse

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Update: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism*

Offering Invitation

Offering Prayer

If I have not recognized all the abundance and the gifts of life around me, forgive my weakness and accept my Thank You now.

If I have not kept pace with the person that I was meant to be, help me re-create myself today. I am willing to be my own friend, have compassion for myself and walk boldly into this new day following the Way of Jesus. Amen

Offertory Hymn: MV #191 *What Can I Do?*

Prayers of the People

May we hold each other in our thoughts, letting the light of this day signify the presence of the Spirit that is with us here in this moment of time eternally.

Well spring of Wisdom hear our cry, the way ahead is unclear. We seek Your Source to satisfy our thirst. We call on Spirit to comfort those of us who are hurting, those of us who are grieving the loss of ones we love. Enable us to send the energy of healing to those who are ill and help us heal our inner wounds.

Hear our voices as we speak to you now. (*silent prayer*)...

Dawn of a new day, put to flight our terrors of war and environmental disasters. As bearers of your loving light help us shed light upon solutions for our plight. We call on Spirit to

Speak loudly to the human powers of this world and turn their minds to life and affirming actions and away from greed and death.

Hear our voices as we speak to you now. (*silent prayer*)...

Supreme Perfection allow us to know that we dwell in the garden of your grace. Your gifts for us abound, the signs of your love are all around. The universe and the earth we walk upon in Holy ground.

We are Your people, we are blessed and we know it. Amen

Hymn: MV #209 *Go, Make a Difference*
(please stand as you are able)

Blessing:

**May the Love and Peace of the One,
Fill your heart and soul and mind completely,
Today, tomorrow and always.
Amen and Amen**

Choral Closing: VU #964 *Go Now in Peace*

Postlude

Scripture Readings for February 26, 2023

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32 (VU p. 759)

Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Canora: St. Andrew's

Carlyle, Carrot River, Colonsay