



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, March 12, 2023



National Affirming Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLaughlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Reader: Janet Keene

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*“Diversity is the magic...The greater the diversity,
the greater the perfection.”*

— Thomas Berry

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #7 *Gather Us In* (sung twice)
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: We gather on this National Affirming Sunday,

ALL: celebrating the all-inclusive love of God—

ONE: Worshipping our Maker,

ALL: who delights in diversity;

ONE: Worshipping the Lover, who in Jesus

**ALL: reached out, accepted and embraced everyone,
despite all social, class, ethnic and
spiritual barriers;**

ONE: Worshipping the Keeper, the Spirit

**ALL: who continues to break down
the walls that divide us.**

Thanks be to God!

Worship Schedule

Lenten Movie Series/Holy Week

Mar 19	<i>Tár</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 26	<i>Women Talking</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 2	<i>Palm Sunday</i> (communion)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 7	<i>Good Friday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 9	<i>Easter Sunday</i> (baptism)	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Moderator's PIE Day Message 2023



Moderator Carmen Lansdowne invites faith communities to [participate in PIE Day](#), a time to be PUBLIC, INTENTIONAL, and EXPLICIT in welcoming and affirming Two-Spirit or LGBTQIA+ people in our churches, families, and society.

PIE Day is March 14, a day to celebrate with people across Canada, and maybe with some pie too!

[Watch this Video](#)

Opening Hymn: MV #178 *Who Is My Mother*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

God, when you called each of us into being,
you delighted in your works.
You gifted us with differences
that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and
practices of love in your creation.
In whatever ways we still struggle
to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings,
free us from narrow thinking
that confines, constrains, or condemns
your good work in us.

From: *PIE Worship Service Option 2*, <https://pieday.ca/materials>

Prayer of Jesus – VU p. 916 *A Paraphrase* by Jim Cotter

WORD

Hymn: MV #27 *Creator God You Gave Us Life* (vs. 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – PIE Day
–Melanie Davis & Stacie Noble-Wiebe

Hymn: MV #27 *Creator God You Gave Us Life* (vs. 3)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

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: *The Fablemans*

Choral Offering: *Many Gifts One Spirit*
– Words and Music by Allen Pote

RESPONSE

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

Take our gifts, loving God
and use them for your work.
Take our very selves—
our hopes, our dreams
our plans, our wonderings—
and use them too,
to make your world a better place. Amen.

From: *Seasons of the Spirit SeasonsFusion* Lent/Easter 2023, pg 26.

Prayers of the People (306-750-8925)

Hymn: MV #138 *My Love Colours Outside the Lines*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Celtic Blessing*

– Traditional, transcribed by Pete Seeger,
Choral Arrangement by James McLaughlan

Postlude

Scripture Readings for March 19, 2023

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 (VU pp. 814-815)
Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Trailview Alliance Church
Living Skies Regional Council
Crossroads United (Maryfield, Wawota)
Crystal Springs

Give it up for the Earth! Lenten Campaign



[Give it up for the Earth!](#) is built around three key elements: political advocacy, learning about biodiversity, and building relationships with Indigenous communities and personal action for the environment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sign on to the [open letter](#) to call for increased federal action on climate: increasing greenhouse gas emissions targets; increasing climate adaptation support; establishing a national strategy on Environmental Racism and Justice (Bill C-226); Canadian corporate accountability, especially around resource extraction (Bills C-262 and C-263); all anchored in incorporating the perspectives, knowledge, and rights of Indigenous peoples.

On March 23, at 6:00 p.m. EDT, join Citizens for Public Justice and For the Love of Creation for a thoughtful conversation on Biodiversity and Creation Care in Canada! Please register for the [Preserving Biodiversity webinar](#), and for more details visit the [Give it up for the Earth! webpage](#).

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]