



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, March 19, 2023

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Music Director: James McLaughlan  
Pianist: Mary Anderson  
Reader: Marie Andrews



#### GATHERING

##### Moment for Reflection

*“the water I give will become fountains within them,  
springing up to provide eternal life.”*  
(John 4:14b)

##### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

##### Lighting the Christ Candle

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

##### Call to Worship

ONE: In the desert, God provided flowing water  
from a rock for the Israelite people.

**ALL: In Samaria, Jesus offered living water  
to the woman at the well.**

ONE: It is here that we too  
can quench our thirst.

**ALL: It is here that we too  
can draw from the well of God’s love.**

ONE: So come all you who are thirsty

**ALL: Let us drink deeply and give thanks.  
Let us celebrate the presence of God.**

Adapted from: Diane Bennett-Jones, *Gathering L/E* 2020, p. 32.

**Opening Hymn: MV #87 *Water Flowing from the Mountain***  
(please stand as you are able)

### Worship Schedule

*Lenten Movie Series/Holy Week*

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

##### Recent Events:

Sat., March 18 – Verna Howlett Memorial Service at First U.C.

### Join the Call for a Guaranteed Livable Income through Lenten Vigils



Moderator Carmen Lansdowne calls for “a fundamental fair level of income security for all.”

Watch [this Guaranteed Livable Income video](#) and join this “historic movement of the spirit.”

The United Church of Canada invites churches and faith communities across the country to hold a vigil or event on March 24, 25, or 26 to call for a Guaranteed Livable Income. More information including a new email template for letters to government, can be found on the [Guaranteed Livable Income webpage](#). Send details of the event you are planning to [justice@united-church.ca](mailto:justice@united-church.ca)

## Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, Ground of our Being,  
Our souls thirst for your presence, and  
we long to gather together  
on the banks of your river.

When the land is dry and  
we find ourselves in Lenten wilderness,  
we call for you;  
we turn to you in worship.

For from you will come our living water,  
from you will come the refreshing streams  
from you will come the life we long for,  
the hope we so desperately need.

Adapted from: Nora Vedress, *Gathering L/E* 2014, p. 32.

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

## WORD

Hymn: VU #449 *Crashing Waters at Creation* (vs. 1 & 2)  
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time –Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #449 *Crashing Waters at Creation* (vs. 3 & 4)  
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: John 4:5-42

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: *Tár*

Choral Offering: *Down to the River to Pray*  
– Traditional Words & Music

## RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Your Belief and Support Make  
All the Difference*

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 #144 *Like a Healing Stream*  
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Celtic Blessing*

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

Postlude

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**Scripture Readings for March 26, 2023**

Ezekiel 37:1-14      Psalm 130 (VU pp. 52-853)  
Romans 8:6-11      John 11:1-45

**Prayers Cycles**

Ministerial

Victory Family Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Coteau Hills (Birsay, Lucky Lake)  
Crossroads (Semans, Raymore)

## 2022 Mission & Service Results: Thank You!



It is with immense gratitude that we thank everyone who contributed to Mission & Service and the work of the church in 2022.

Mission & Service givings totalled \$21.1 million, planned gifts totalled \$1.8 million, and over \$1.5 million was contributed for the people of Ukraine. That is a total of \$24.5M and the demonstration of amazing generosity. Read more about the [2022 Mission & Service results](#).

Together through Mission & Service we have supported life-changing work that affects people in Canada and across the globe. Stories of the impact of your gifts can be found on our [website](#) and on [YouTube](#). You can also get an update from one of our partners [assisting Ukrainian refugees](#).

Our shared care, concern, prayers, generosity, and action in relation to the work we do together—our United Church Mission & Service—is a powerful expression of our faith. Thank you so much for your gifts.

[Image credit: Middle East Council of Churches]