



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, March 5, 2023

2nd Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLaughlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Reader: Maxine Olmsted



Worship Schedule

Lenten Movie Series

Mar 12	<i>The Fablemans</i> (PIE Day)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
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

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*“To be alive is to be broken;
to be broken is to stand in need of grace.”
— Brennan Manning*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship

ONE: Along the Lenten way, may our loving God

ALL: give us calm reflection.

ONE: Along the Lenten way, may our loving God

ALL: give us faithful friends.

ONE: Along the Lenten way, may our loving God

ALL: give us purpose and direction.

ONE: Along the Lenten way, may our loving God

ALL: bring us to Jesus and his cross-bound way.

ONE: Along the Lenten way, we worship God.

From: David Sparks, 2023, <https://gatheringworship.ca/>

Opening Hymn: VU #266 *Amazing Grace*
(please stand as you are able)

Bring Visibility to a Guaranteed Livable Income This Lent



Did you know that The United Church of Canada's members and allies have successfully convinced municipalities to pass resolutions for a Guaranteed Livable Income in St. John's (NL), Pictou County (NS), and Fredericton (NB), just to name a few? This Lent it's time to act.

The United Church of Canada Guaranteed Livable Income network 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 can be found on the [Guaranteed Livable Income webpage](#).

[Image credit: Canva]

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, Ground of our Being
we come together to
receive your word, feel your presence and
ready ourselves to be your servants in the world.
Some of us come needing to forgive another,
others come needing to be forgiven.
We all come knowing that you alone
can infuse us with the peace and grace
to both give and receive forgiveness
because you have first forgiven us.
May we be open to your unconditional love and mercy.
Adapted from: Catherine Tovell, Gathering, Lent/Easter 2017, page 30.

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

WORD

Hymn: MV #81 *Love Us into Fullness* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #81 *Love Us into Fullness* (verse 3)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-17

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 Banshees of Inisherin*

Choral Offering: *Song of Hope*
- Words and Music by Jim Strathdee

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Religion in the Service of Humanity*

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 #98 *Like a River of Tears*
(please stand as you are able)

Grace for Potluck Lunch: VU #552 *For Food in a World*

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Celtic Blessing*

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

Postlude

Scripture Readings for March 12, 2023

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

The Salvation Army

Living Skies Regional Council

Bracken, Climax, Frontier, Craik

A Year of War in Ukraine



To mark the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine, The United Church of Canada Mission & Service partner [ACT Alliance](#) has shared [this update](#) on their work in the region, providing aid and assisting those fleeing the war. Your generosity through [Mission & Service](#) has long supported ACT's humanitarian relief and advocacy efforts.

Budolai is an energetic non-governmental organization (NGO) leader in Balti, Moldova. He is also a person with strong faith. His organization, Healthy Cities, was created several years ago to help the most vulnerable people in the city: homeless, addicts, people with disabilities. Last year, when Russia invaded Ukraine, and refugees began to cross the border into Moldova in great numbers, he saw a need to reach out to this new group of people in need. [Read the full story.](#)

[Image credit: Simon Chambers/ACT]