



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, April 23, 2023

Earth Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary
Reader: Jim Pratt



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

“Like the industrial, space, and information revolutions of the past, all sectors of society can and must play major roles in the green revolution – this time with existential responsibilities to get it right. Together, we must invest in our planet.” <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/>

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #412 *This Is the Day* (verses 1 & 3)
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: Behold, how manifold are God’s works!

ALL: God has made them all in wisdom.

ONE: The earth is God’s and everything in it.

ALL: Let all of creation praise

God’s awesome deeds!

From: [For the Love of Creation Earth Sunday Service](#)

Opening Hymn: VU #296 *This Is God’s Wondrous World*
(please stand as you are able)

Worship Schedule

Apr 30	<i>St. Andrew’s Sunday</i>	- Rev. Shawn Sanford Beck
May 7	<i>Asian Heritage Month</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 14	<i>Mother’s Day</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 21	<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Your Generosity Shows Love of Creation



[Photo credit: fstop123/istockphoto.com]

Pray, learn,
and act
for Creation

Earth Day is celebrated in communities around the world on April 22 each year. We often hear messages about the habits we can change and the things we can do to take better care of the earth. In day-to-day life, we hear about bans on single-use plastic, ways to reduce waste in our homes, and the ebbs and flows of Earth hurting and healing—but we can also engage in prayer, learning, and action to achieve sustainable habits and deeper understanding, respect, and hope for earth.

Your [Mission & Service](#) gifts support the development and delivery of climate initiatives and educational opportunities. Thank you for your generosity.

Opening Prayer

As we gather, we are thankful for your creation:
for light and darkness;
for air, wind, and sky;
for earth and sea;
for seeds, harvests, and plant life;
for sunlight, moonlight, and starlight;
for every living creature, swarming, flying,
creeping, and grazing;
for our lives.

In our actions, meditations, and prayers,
may we honour and celebrate
your very good creation,
as we seek wisdom on how to share
our gratitude and love
in good and healing ways.

Amen.

From: [For the Love of Creation Earth Sunday Service](#)

The Lord's Prayer (sung version – VU #959)

WORD

Hymn: MV #174 *Soil of God, You and I* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #174 *Soil of God, You and I* (verse 3)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Luke 24: 13-35

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: *For the Love of Creation*

Choral Offering: *I Am Your Mother*

– words by Shirley Erena Murray
& music by Ron Klusmeier

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Real-Time Relief Really Makes a World of Difference: Thivan Hoang's Work*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

In words of compassion & reconciliation,
Christ is alive!

In acts of peacemaking & peace bringing,
Christ is alive!

In support for those living with fear and despair,
Christ is alive!

In gifts for the local church and for a needy world
Christ is alive!

May we be evidence of Christ's vitality. Amen.

Adapted from: David Sparks, *Gathering L/E* 2023, p. 50.

Prayers of the People (306-750-8925)

Hymn: VU #510 *We Have This Ministry*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #974 *Amen*

Postlude

Prayers Cycles

Ministerial

Christ the Redeemer Parish

Living Skies Regional Council

Fort Qu'Appelle: St. Andrew's

Gainsborough, Carievale

Saskatoon: Grace Westminster

Moderator Urges Action for Climate Justice



For Earth Week, Moderator Carmen Lansdowne writes about actions and choices for climate justice that may preserve our future:

"The climate emergency is not just a big problem; it's the end of the world as we know it... We need to talk about what we want to see from each other. Not confrontationally, where we beat each other over the head about our shortcomings—we need to inspire each other."

Read the [full opinion article](#).

[Image credit:FG Trade Latin/iStock]