



FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Swift Current, SK
Sunday, November 19, 2023



Twenty-fifth after Pentecost

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Reader: Judy Killaby

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*To love is to risk not being loved in return,
To hope is to risk despair,
To try is to risk failure.
But risks must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.
The person who risks nothing does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.*
— William Arthur Ward

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship

ONE: Welcome to this sacred time and place.
ALL: We come to give thanks for God's creation.
ONE: Come and experience the gifts of the Spirit.
ALL: We come to listen and to pray.
ONE: Come and hear the parables of Jesus.
ALL: We come to learn and to discern.
ONE: Come and celebrate the presence of God.
ALL: We come to sing and to rejoice!
Written by Annette Taylor, 2023.

Opening Hymn: VU #248 *When Long before Time* (verses 1-5)
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

**Holy Mystery,
Ground of our Being,
be with us now
as we open our hearts to you.**

**Hold us close to you,
that we might feel your peace in us.
Hold us close to you,
that we might know your will for us.
Hold us close to you
that we might gather your courage in us.
Hold us close to you
that we might feel your strength sustaining us.**

Adapted from Gill Le Fevre, <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/hold-us-close>

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #644 *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*
(please remain seated)

Celebration of Baptism
Jake Glenn Lesiuk

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

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: *Go Big or Go Home*

Choral Offering: *Take My Gifts*
– Music by Ron Klusmeier
Words by Shirley Erena Murray

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Kindergarten in a Refugee Camp*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication:
**Take the gifts we offer,
not as a means to rescue others,
but as a means for relationship and for connection,
as a means to build bridges between strangers,
as a means to embody the good news. Amen**
Adapted from: Gord Dunbar, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2015, page 40.

Prayers of the People (306-750-8925)

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

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Go Now In Peace*
– Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig, Music by Don Besig

Postlude

Recent Events

Friday, November 3 – Sharon Dunham Memorial Service at First United Church
Friday, November 10 – Nicole Loeppky Memorial Service at Warren's Funeral Home Chapel
Tuesday, November 14 – Rodney Murphy Funeral Service at First United Church

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Full Gospel Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Stoughton: Grace

Regina: Sunset

Theodore

Lectionary Readings for November 26, 2023

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 100 (VU pp. 820-824)

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Worship Schedule

(Travelling through Advent with Maya Angelou's Poetry)

Nov 26	<i>Reign of Christ Sunday</i>	- Rev. Ray Friesen
Dec 3	<i>Advent One – Hope</i> (with communion)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Dec 10	<i>Advent Two – Peace</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Dec 17	<i>Advent Three – Joy</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Big Banks Commit to Racial Equity Audits, Thanks to United Church and SHARE



The United Church of Canada and the United Church Pension, as members of SHARE, co-filed a shareholder proposal asking the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) and the Bank of Montreal (BMO) to conduct racial equity audits. These audits would identify and mitigate the potential harm their activities might have on racialized people.

Last week, both banks committed to the racial equity audits.

Read the full [news story](#).

[Image credit: Canva]

40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism: Week at a Glance!

40 DAYS OF ENGAGEMENT on Anti-Racism

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Featured Writers:

- Jennifer Hompoth
- Alan Lai
- Magdalena Vanderkooy
- Carmen Lansdowne
- Mini Choi
- Heather Beamish

LIVE EVENTS: TUESDAY 7PM EST

Sharing Our Stories: Indigenous Identity in the Christian Church

FEATURED BOOK

The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge

We are in week six of the 40 Days! There are some dynamic days ahead featuring a range of [written reflections](#) from United Church leaders, including Moderator Carmen Lansdowne. Plus you won't want to miss this week's [live event](#), and [featured book](#)!

Have you missed reflections from previous weeks? Or have you read them and would like to re-read them? All of the stories from this year's 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism continue to [live on the website](#).

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada and the contributors]