



FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Swift Current, SK
Sunday, November 26, 2023

Reign of Christ Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Ray Friesen
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Reader: Jean Pearson



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"If your heart is broken, you'll find GOD right there;
if you're kicked in the gut, [the Lord] will help you catch your breath."*
(Ps 34:18. *The Message*)

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship

ONE: Come, let's shout praises to GOD,
ALL: **Let's march into the Lord's presence singing praises,
lifting the rafters with our hymns!**
ONE: And why?
ALL: **Because GOD is the best,
In one hand the Almighty holds deep caves and caverns,
in the other hand grasps the high mountains.
God's hands sculpted Earth!
The Creator placed us here.**
ONE: So come, let us worship the Lord
ALL: **The One who is our Shepherd
We're the people God pastures, the flock the Lord feeds.**
(Adapted from Ps 95)

Opening Hymn: VU #326 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

**Holy Mystery, Ground of our Being
Creator and Keeper of All that Is
Source of Love and Healing**

**In this hour of worship
May your Presence seem ever more real
May our Understanding of your Will and Word increase
May our courage to embrace life grow strong
May we realize again our companionship with each
Is rooted in you and given Life by your Spirit.
We are never alone for we have You and we have each other.
And so together we pray the Prayer Jesus taught us, saying:**

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: MV #179 *Sisters Let Us Walk Together* verses 1-3
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time – Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #179 *Sisters Let Us Walk Together* verse 3

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:27–31

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: *When Cracks Begin to Show*

Choral Offering: *When Long Before Time*
Words & Music by: Pete Davison & George Black

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *What Did Jesus Do?*

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

Closing Hymn: VU #675 *Will Your Anchor Hold*
(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

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Turtle River Parish:

Edam, Glaslyn, Meota, Mervin, Turtleford

Lectionary Readings for December 3, 2023

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 (VU p. 794 Part One)

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

Worship Schedule

(Travelling through Advent with Maya Angelou's Poetry)

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
Dec 24	<i>Advent Four – Love</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Dec 24	<i>Christmas Eve (7 p.m.)</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

General Council Executive Urges Prime Minister to Call for Ceasefire



The United Church of Canada General Council Executive, its corresponding members, and the members of the National Indigenous Council have issued a plea to Prime Minister Trudeau to advocate for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, recognizing that, in the view of legal experts, genocide is currently taking place.

[Read the full letter.](#)

Please continue to [donate](#), [advocate](#), and [pray](#) for the Middle East.

[Image credit: Hosny Salah, DSPR]

Young Adult Delegation to Attend COP28 Virtually



The United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Nov. 30 – Dec. 12, 2023.

A delegation of [young adults from The United Church of Canada will attend the conference virtually](#). The delegation is part of a broader United Church COP28 strategy that includes supporting and amplifying the voices of those most impacted by climate change and people of faith at COP, as well as engaging and mobilizing faith communities in Canada.

Here's what you can do to help!

- [Faithful Responses to Eco-anxiety](#), Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. EST, with Presbyterian Church of Canada
- [Laudate Deum: Ecospirituality in Action](#), Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. EST, with Citizens for Public Justice, Development and Peace and For the Love of Creation
- [Hold or attend a vigil for climate justice](#) in your community on the weekend of December 8–10

The United Church of Canada COP28 delegation will be reporting back regularly via social media. Follow **#UCCANCOP28** and **#FLCCOP28** on social media and share updates with your networks.

[Image credit: COP28 UAE]