



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, December 10, 2023

Advent Two - Peace

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



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.
— Maya Angelou*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candles – Kira and Karolina Polishchuk

Advent Hymn: *We wait for God* (verse 2 – sung twice)
– Words by William S. Kervin, Music by Deborah Park and Tom Reynolds
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

Children: Are we there yet?

All: Yes, we are in the place of birth and new life.

Children: Are we there yet?

All: Yes, we are listening for the voice of God.

Children: Are we there yet?

All: Yes, God is with us even in the darkness.

Children: Are we there yet?

All: Yes, God is in the storm and the calm.

Children: Are we there yet?

All: Yes, we see clearly where we are through our tears.

Children: Are we there yet?

All: Yes, we are at home with the holy.

Children: We are home! Yeah!

Written by: *Naramata Centre, Summer Community Worship*, August 21, 2002, Naramata, B.C.

Opening Hymn: VU #619 *Healer of Our Every Ill*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

**Holy Mystery,
Ground of our Being,
your vision of justice and wholeness
comes to us in sweeping revelations
and in tiny signs of peace.
Kindle our hearts
that we might be a peaceful people.
Keep us from growing weary of waiting,
lest we miss the wonder of your appearing.
Even so, come quickly. Amen.**

Adapted from *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 82.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: MV #173 *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands* (verses 1-3)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #173 *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands* (verses 4 & 5)

Scripture Readings: Mark 1:1-8

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.

Video: *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem* by Maya Angelou

Reflection: *Peace, My Soul*

Choral Offering: *Peace, Peace*

– Arranged by: Fred Bock

Words & Music by: Rick and Sylvia Powell

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Update: The Holy Bible in Mohawk*

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 #44 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: MV #221 *I Am Walking a Path of Peace*

Postlude

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Restoration House

Living Skies Regional Council

Wakaw, Wilkie

Weyburn: Grace

Regina: Wesley

Lectionary Readings for December 17, 2023

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126 (VU p. 850) or Luke 1:47-55 (VU pp.898-899)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Worship Schedule

(Travelling through Advent with Maya Angelou's Poetry)

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</i> (7 p.m.)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Dec 31	<i>1st after Christmas</i>	- Norma Hain
Jan 7	<i>Epiphany Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Host or Attend a Candles for COP28 Vigil



Together with faith groups across the country under the banner of For the Love of Creation, you are invited to organize and/or attend a [Candles for COP28 vigil](#) this Friday through Sunday.

Vigils currently planned are in Penticton, Burnaby, and Parksville, BC; Morden, MB; Ottawa, Toronto, Cobourg, Stone Mills,

Waterloo, Guelph, and London, ON; Saint Laurent, QC; and Halifax, and Wolfville, NS. You can find more details on how to join one, or to host your own and add it to the map at the [For the Love of Creation website](#). Follow these vigils and updates from COP 28 delegates on social media using #FLCCOP28 and #UCCanCOP28.

[Image credit:Lori Neale]

Your Mission and Service Advent Resources



Every Christmas, the generous United Church community reaches out and makes gifts to Mission and Service. This year, we hope, will be no different. While there are dozens of causes and ministries that Mission and Service gifts support, this year's campaign is focusing on the issue of child hunger.

This is the time to top-up your givings to Mission & Service. You can do this through your local church or directly on the [UCC Webpage](#).

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