



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, February 4, 2024

### 5<sup>th</sup> after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Karen Messer  
Music Director: James McLauchlan  
Pianist: Mary Anderson  
Reader: George Reaves



## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*The celebration of February as Black History (or African Heritage) Month begins this week. Officially recognized in Canada since 1996, this is a time to honour the contributions and struggles of peoples of African descent.*

### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

**Gathering Hymn: MV #14 *Where Two or Three Are Gathered*** (sung 4 times)  
(please remain seated)

### Call to Worship

One: Do you really not know...

**All: that God is God of all in the heavens and on the earth?**

One: Have you really not heard...

**All: how God has brought princes to nothing and oppressors to their knees?**

One: Haven't you already been told...

**All: that you're counted among the stars, and that you matter?**

One: Do you not know, have you not heard?

**All: We come to learn, we come for our strength to be renewed, we come in hope.**

**Amen.**

(Adapted from On Eagle's Wings: Black History Month Service 2018)

**Opening Hymn: MV #161 *I Have Called You by Your Name***

(please stand as you are able)

### Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**Holy Mystery, Ground of our being, you call us together to reflect on your Word. It is good to be together in this place. We come, bearing the marks and scars of our living, and offer them to your healing presence. Bless us as we gather - each one of us - that we may know your Spirit moving among us as we worship together. Bless us now as we sing and pray together, that we may be a blessing in your world. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.**

Adapted from [gatheringworship.ca/prayer](http://gatheringworship.ca/prayer) p. 42 Bob Root Peterborough, ON

## WORD

**Hymn:** MV #157 *I Am a Child of God* (verses 1-3)  
(please remain seated)

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn:** MV #157 *I Am a Child of God* (verses 4 & 5)  
(please remain seated)

**Scripture Readings:** 1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

ONE: We read these texts so that in them we may find wisdom for life.

ALL: May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

**Reflection:** *Humble, Healthy Helpers*

**Choral Offering:** *Water Me*  
– Words and Music by Jim Strathdee

## RESPONSE

**Minute for Mission:** *Lessons of Racism Learned When Young*

**Offering Invitation**

**Prayer of Dedication**

We bring our gifts of time, of talent, and of treasure, God of Love. Take what we give of our very selves to transform us, blessing and calling us to actively learn and to carefully listen, blessing and calling us to embrace opportunities to become an anti-racist church, blessing and calling us to lean into Jesus' call to love all people. Amen

(Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, ON)

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn:** MV #209 *Go, Make a Difference*  
(please stand as you are able)

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing:** VU #969 *Amen*

**Postlude**

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## **Prayer Cycles**

### **Ministerial**

Swift Current Ministerial Chaplaincy

### **Living Skies Regional Council**

Cote

Crossroads (Semans, Raymore)

Crystal Springs

## **Lectionary Readings for February 11, 2024**

2 Kings 2:1–12

Psalm 50:1–6

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

Mark 9:2–9

## **Worship Schedule**

*(Lenten Movie Series)*

Feb 11	<i>Transfiguration</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 18	Lent One – <i>Oppenheimer</i> (with baptism)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 25	Lent Two – <i>Past Lives</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 3	Lent Three – <i>American Fiction</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

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# International Court of Justice Rules on South Africa's Genocide Application



General Council  
response to the ruling,  
and a letter to the Prime Minister

The United Church of Canada joins partners in Palestine and Israel, and the global community, in expressing appreciation for the [ruling](#) of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) today. The ruling indicated key provisional measures that Israel must undertake “to protect against further, severe and irreparable harm to the rights of the Palestinian people under the Genocide Convention, which continue to be violated with impunity.”

The Court did not call specifically for a ceasefire. However, only through an immediate ceasefire can specific, urgent measures outlined by the court’s ruling be fully met.

The United Church urges Canada, as a close ally and friend of Israel, to bring all its efforts to bear to persuade Israel to abide fully with the ICJ’s ruling. Respect for, and compliance with, international law—judiciously applied through agreed-upon international legal mechanisms—is essential and required of all states. To date, international law has been applied selectively, including by Canada. This results in the most vulnerable, marginalized, powerless, and abused people globally suffering the greatest pain.

The United Church of Canada has [written to Prime Minister Trudeau](#) to support the ICJ ruling, urging Israel to comply with the Court’s provisional measures—without delay and without exception. The letter also urges the Government of Canada to advocate for an end to the human suffering in Gaza, and for the safe and immediate release of all remaining hostages.

Furthermore, should a resolution be brought to the UN Security Council for all member states to abide by the ICJ ruling of January 26th, the United Church urges Canada to put pressure on its allies in the United States, the UK, and France to vote in favour of, and comply with, such a resolution.

[Read more](#)

[Photo: International Court of Justice]