



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, January 21, 2024

3rd after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Sunday School

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

Winter is not something to be feared, but admired for its still, still beauty.

Because it's where a world appears to hold its breath and sigh,

carpeted as it is with deeply frozen potential teeming beneath darkened soil.

Wet grasslands are rimed with frost, liquid drips from hedges and trees as if to say...

"Look, look, don't you see?"

Life isn't only glorious in springtime or abundantly beautiful in summer, because our autumnal days and whitening wintry glaze all have their own story to tell, etched into each season, their own magic to whisper into our receptive souls if we decide to notice it.

— By Joy Lenton

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: VU #652 *Be Still, My Soul* – verse 1
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: Beloved God, we are called here today.

ALL: We are called at every age, from every corner, to gather.

ONE: Children of God, let us playfully worship together.

ALL: Worshipping God who made each of us and loves all of us.

ONE: God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: VU #509 *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer
Holy Mystery,
in this coming week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
we pray for those who live in the midst of injustice.
Encourage us to lift up their voices and strengthen their hope.
We pray for those who continue to perpetuate injustice.
May your kindness fill our hearts and make us agents of freedom and peace.
We pray for every institution and person who stands for justice.
Let us act justly according to your words. Today we ask you:
O God, hear our prayer and grant us your justice.

WORD

Hymn: VU #365 *Jesus Loves Me*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time: *God's Story: Jonah* (video)

Scripture Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

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: *Jonah and the Big Fish*

Choral Offering: MV #92 *Like a Rock*
– Words by Keri K. Wehlander, Music by Linnea Good

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Providing Tuition Assistance*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication
Gracious and giving God,
we ask that your nature be poured out upon the gifts that are so generously given.
Glory! Strength! Splendor! Majesty! Peace!
And may your glory be known through us. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #375 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #964 *Go Now in Peace*

Postlude

Recent Events

January 18, 2024 – Dennis Unrau Memorial Service at First United Church

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Victory Family Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Colleston, Steep Creek

Climax (Bracken, Climax, Frontier)

Lectionary Readings for January 28, 2024

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111 (VU p. 833)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Worship Schedule

| | | |
|--------|---|-----------------------|
| Jan 28 | <i>Wisdom</i> (with communion & potluck lunch) | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| Feb 4 | <i>5th After Epiphany</i> | - Karen Messer |
| Feb 11 | <i>Transfiguration</i> | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| Feb 18 | <i>Lent One – Oppenheimer</i> (with baptism) | - Rev. Annette Taylor |

Canada Should Support South Africa's Application to the International Court of Justice



Canada should support South Africa's application to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding Israel's breach of its obligations under the 1948 Genocide Convention, and ban arms sales to Israel.

[Read the letter](#) General Secretary Michael Blair has sent to Prime Minister Trudeau and other members of the federal government, and continue to [act, pray, and donate](#) for peace and justice in the Middle East.

[Image credit: ipopba/iStock]

The Mod's Book Squad

The United Church Bookstore: Lent Is Less Than a Month Away!



Moderator Carmen Lansdowne has her copy of the new Lenten devotional [*Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis*](#). Do you?

Lent begins in less than a month on February 14! Consider reading this thoughtful devotional with contributions from climate advocates around the world.

Look at fasting for Lent from a different perspective by deepening your commitment to taking action for a climate in crisis.

Bonus: Study groups can save big! Purchase five or more softcover copies of *Act/Fast* and **save 20% off** at checkout. Just add them to your cart and watch the savings add up! Plus, orders of \$100 or more also qualify for free shipping; just add promo code: **FREESHIPPING** at checkout.

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