



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, January 28, 2024

4th after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Reader: Stacie Noble-Wiebe



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*Kindness is more important
than wisdom,
and the recognition of this
is the beginning of wisdom.
— Theodore Isaac Rubin*

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, Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

ONE: Come into this sacred space
to celebrate the presence of God!

**ALL: We come seeking sanctuary
for our souls and for our hearts.**

ONE: Connected digitally or in person,
May we know faith-filled community.

**ALL: As people of this family of faith,
we come for divine nurture.**

ONE: Come, then, to seek connection with God
through the intimacy of prayer:

**ALL: We come, O God,
yearning for communion
within your restorative Spirit.**

**When our energy and our enthusiasm wane,
recharge our will
that we may reach out into the world.**

**When we question and doubt,
immerse our souls
within your wisdom and your guidance.**

When we worry and wonder ceaselessly,

calm our hearts, settle our minds,
and free our dreams.
In our praying, in our engaging with scripture,
and in our singing,
may we be restored, renewed,
and replenished into the Way of Jesus.

Amen.

Written by Gord Dunbar,

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/come-sacred-space-worship-god>

Opening Hymn: MV #10 *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom*
(please stand as you are able)

WORD

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #63 *Long before My Journey's Start*
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 111 (VU pg 833 with refrain)

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: *The Beginning of Wisdom*

Choral Offering: *In Love*
– Words and Music by Dave Fischer

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Preserving Culture through Language Revitalization*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

These are our gifts
that wisdom may be heard and heeded.

These are our efforts
to meet needs and call for justice.

Bless our offerings, Gracious God,
and bring forth from them
knowledge, comfort, and care.

Amen.

Written by: Karen Boivin,

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/these-are-our-gifts-wisdom-may-be-heard-and-heeded>

Celebration of Communion (306-750-8925)

Closing Hymn: VU #686 *God of Grace and God of Glory*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #969 *Amen*

Grace for Potluck Lunch: VU #552 *For Food in a World*

Postlude

Recent Events

Saturday, January 27, 2024 – Don Mitchell Funeral Service at Parkside Funeral Home

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Zion Mennonite Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Carnduff

Coteau Hills (Birsay, Lucky Lake)

Craik

Lectionary Readings for February 4, 2024

Isaiah 40:21–31

Psalm 147:1–11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Mark 1:29–39

Worship Schedule

(Lenten Movie Series)

Feb 4	<i>5th After Epiphany</i>	- Karen Messer
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

Partners Report Public Health Catastrophe Unfolding In Gaza



January 17, 2024 marked the 100th day of Israeli bombardment and ground operations in Gaza. Most of the population—2.2 million people—is at imminent risk of famine.

The United Church of Canada [continues to call](#) for

- an immediate permanent ceasefire
- the immediate and safe release of all hostages, political prisoners, and administrative detainees
- sustained and protected humanitarian access
- independent investigations of war crimes and violations of international law, with all parties responsible being held accountable

Please continue to [pray, act, and donate](#). Read the [full news story](#).

[Image credit: DSPR]

Call for Nominations!



Call for nominations! Committees and task groups at the national level rely on the wisdom and God-given talents that committed individuals bring to these positions. Over the next few weeks, we will highlight various positions within the church. Who will you nominate?

The Canadian Council of Churches: The [Canadian Council of Churches](#) brings together Christian churches from across the country to respond to Christ's call for unity and peace, to seek truth, and to act in love. Who should be the United Church's voice at this ecumenical table? Learn more about the [Governing Board of the Canadian Council of Churches](#) and nominate someone or consider if you are called!

Structural Change Evaluation Steering Group: Five years ago, the United Church began transitioning to our current structure. Two of the leaders who were a part of implementing that change are needed to join the [Structural Change Evaluation Steering Group](#).

Learn more on the [opportunities webpage](#).

[Photo: The United Church of Canada]