



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, January 7, 2024

### Epiphany Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Reader: Marilyn Durant



## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*Nothing in life  
is more exciting and rewarding  
than the sudden flash of insight  
that leaves you a changed person.  
— Arthur Gordon Webster*

### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

**Gathering Hymn:** MV #14 *Where Two or Three Are Gathered* (please remain seated)  
– sung by Bells Corners United Church Choir  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-BifLYHLiA>

### Call to Worship

ONE: In the midst of  
the shadows and despair,  
the chaos and uncertainty  
that existed before the world was born...

**ALL: God said: “Let there be light.”**

ONE: In the trials and temptations of everyday life,  
we seek assurance  
that we are not alone...

**ALL: God says: “Let there be light.”**

ONE: In the journey to the future,  
inspired by mentors from the past,  
remaining open to the guidance  
of prophets from the future,  
we live with anticipation...

**ALL: God will say: “Let there be light.”**

Written by: Bill Steadman, <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/midst-shadows-and-despair>

### Opening Hymn: VU #79 Arise, Your Light Is Come

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqGSBfD1Xr4>

(please stand as you are able)

## Opening Prayer

God of the Cosmos,  
out of the mystery  
of your love and grace,  
the right combination  
of elements and heat  
have burst forth to become  
stars and planets.

And we, amazed,  
are part of this wonder,  
formed of stardust.  
As you guided the magi  
to the Living Light  
by the light of the heavens,  
guide our lives  
that we might draw nearer  
to your presence.

Written by: Sudbury Presbytery Liturgy Writing Team,

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/god-cosmos-out-mystery-your-love-and-grace>

## The Lord's Prayer

### WORD

Community Learning Time

- Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #91 The First Nowell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5uud2fjtoo>

(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

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: *Insight into the Mystery*

Hymn: VU #82 *A Light is Gleaming*

– written & sung by Linnea Good

(please stand as you are able)

### RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Learning the Gospel at Camp*

Offering Invitation

## Prayer of Dedication

As long ago, the magi brought their gifts  
we bring our gifts to you, O Holy Mystery.  
We offer them,  
signs of our love and commitment,  
to your work of peace and justice.  
Receive our monetary gifts and, with them,  
the gifts of our hearts and living.  
**Amen.**

Adapted from: Bob Root, <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/long-ago-magi-brought-their-gifts>

## Prayers of the People (306-750-8925)

**Closing Hymn: VU #87 *I Am the Light of the World*** (please stand as you are able)  
– sung by Jim & Jean Strathdee  
words & music by Jim Strathdee

## Commissioning & Benediction

**Choral Closing: *as-Salaam, Shalom***  
– sung by Jim & Jean Strathdee  
words & music by Jim Strathdee

## Postlude

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## Prayer Cycles

### Ministerial

The Salvation Army  
Living Skies Regional Council  
Cabri, Hazlet  
Carievale

## Lectionary Readings for January 14, 2024

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (VU p. 861)  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

## Worship Schedule

(Season after Epiphany)

Jan 14	<i>God Calls</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jan 21	<i>Jonah</i>	- Sunday School
Jan 28	<i>Wisdom</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 4	<i>5<sup>th</sup> After Epiphany</i>	- Karen Messer

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# Happy New Year!



Happy New Year from The United Church of Canada's General Council Office!  
We pray for God's abundant blessings as we enter 2024, seeking to live into our calling to be a church and people of deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.

God of immeasurable grace,  
Bless us with spirituality as deep as the ocean  
Call us to a discipleship as bold as the saints'.  
Compel us to a justice as daring as the Redeemer's love,  
In the name of our Impossible Hope,  
Jesus the Christ. Amen

Prayer by Jennifer Henry. Find more [Call and Vision worship resources](#) on our website.

[Photo: Winterseidler from Pixabay]

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## Moderator Carmen Lansdowne: Act Now on the Middle East Humanitarian Crisis



Your advocacy for a ceasefire in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war is critically important. [Moderator Carmen Lansdowne reminds us](#) that the more constituents write to their elected representatives, the bigger the impact. A letter from the Moderator or the General Secretary is only one letter. Using our online advocacy tool, you can send your own individual emails calling on

officials in the Government of Canada to continue to press for a ceasefire in the conflict in Middle East.

Visit our Pray, Donate, and Advocate page to share your voice on this current crisis:

- [ADVOCATE](#) by sending a letter to your MP, using our new advocacy tool.
- [DONATE](#) to our Mission and Service partners who are currently responding to those impacted by the conflict in West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- [PRAY](#) for peace and justice in the Middle East.

[Video still: The United Church of Canada]