



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, February 18, 2024

Lent One

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Sharon Veer
Reader: William Davis



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"O, it is excellent to have a giant's strength,
but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant."*

— William Shakespeare

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #20 *God of Still Waiting* (verses 1 & 3)
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: We are gathered here on the first Sunday in Lent.

ALL: It is a season of mystery.

ONE: It marks the time of Jesus' journey
in the wilderness.

ALL: Can we go with him on this journey?

ONE: Yes. Jesus invites us to join him

ALL: to discover more about ourselves,

ONE: to discover more about his way,

ALL: that we may build his kingdom on earth.

ONE: Come, let us go with Jesus on this Lenten journey.

Adapted from: Fern Gibbard,

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/gathered-first-sunday-lent-season-mystery>

Opening Hymn: MV #28 *God of the Bible*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Holy Mystery, Ground of our Being
you call us out into the desert,
to be tempted.

May we hear your Word,
that we may be fed.

May we trust in your Love,
that we will not put you
to the test.

**May we find wisdom and courage
that we may reject evil.
May we follow the one you sent
to show us the way
through the deserts of life.**

Adapted from Fraser Williamson,

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/god-wonder-and-wilderness-you-call-us-out-desert>

WORD

Hymn: MV #144 *Like a Healing Stream*
(please remain seated)

Celebration of Baptism
Avery Jeara Demesa

Special Music: *Love Will be Our Home*
- Words and music by Steven Curtis Chapman. Arranged by Bill Wollaver
- Sung by Jacqueline Orola Ravino, Jennifer Orola Demesa, Ruth Orola
& Harold Lapuz

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-15

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: *Oppenheimer*

Choral Offering: *When We Are Tested* (MV #65)
– Words by Ruth Duck &
Music by Ruth Watson Henderson

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Leading Generations*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication
Holy Mystery,
you transform lives:
the hungry are fed;
the lonely are befriended; and
the broken are restored to wholeness.

May these gifts
be part of the transformation.
We offer them with humility and hope. Amen.

Adapted from: Laura J. Turnbull,

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/blessed-healer-you-transform-lives>

Prayers of the People (306-750-8925)

Closing Hymn: VU #642 *Be Thou My Vision* (verses 1-4)
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: MV #214 *May God's Sheltering Wings* (sung once)

Postlude

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Bridgeway Community Church

Living Skies Regional Council

The U of S Ecumenical Chaplaincy

Delisle-Vanscoy

Eatonia

Esterhazy: St. Andrew's

Lectionary Readings for February 25, 2024

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31 (VU p.746 Part Three & Four)

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

Worship Schedule

(Lenten Movie Series)

Feb 25 Lent Two – *Past Lives* - Rev. Annette Taylor

Mar 3 Lent Three – *American Fiction* - Rev. Annette Taylor
(with potluck lunch & AGM)

Mar 10 Lent Four – *Barbie* - Rev. Annette Taylor

Mar 17 Lent Five – *The Holdovers* - Rev. Annette Taylor

Mar 24 Palm Sunday - Rev. Annette Taylor
(with communion)

Dive into Black History Month with Mandimby's Journey



Young Malagasy adventurer Mandimby Rakotondramboa, deeply connected to his Afro-descendant heritage, journeys north, trading the familiar shores of Madagascar for the snowy landscapes of Canada. Dive into his story in this week's [Black History Month blog](#), and challenge your perceptions as he explores identity, adaptation, and the celebration of diversity.

[Photo credit: courtesy of Mandimby Rakotondramboa]

Give it up for the Earth! 2024 Lenten Campaign



Give it up for the Earth! 2024 runs from February 14 to March 28. The climate crisis demands action, and [Give it up for the Earth!](#) makes it easy for you to make a difference. This national Lenten campaign empowers Canadians to reduce emissions, embrace [eco-spirituality](#), and demand bolder [climate action from the government](#).

Visit the campaign [website](#) for more information, resources, and to register your community of faith. Get started today, and send a letter to our [Minister of Environment and Climate Change](#) calling for bolder climate action.

[Image credit: For the Love of Creation/Give it up for the Earth]