



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, February 25, 2024

2nd Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Reader: George Reaves



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*“Following Jesus means to give our own unique form, our own unique incarnation, to God’s love.
To follow Jesus means to live our lives as authentically as he lived his.
It means to give away our ego and follow the God of love as Jesus shows us how to do it.
– Henri J. M. Nouwen, A Spirituality of Homecoming*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #20 *God of Still Waiting* (verses 2 & 4)
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

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

ALL: Lent is a season of mystery.

ONE: Today we mark the beginning
of Jesus’ final journey to Jerusalem..

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: VU #644 *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Holy Mystery,

Ground of our Being

we like the idea of walking with Jesus;

it feels good to step alongside

someone we love and admire.

**But this Lenten journey demands
more than admiration.
There will be wilderness times to test us,
and grace-filled moments to sustain us.
May our Lenten paths be blessed,
our imaginations ignited and
our hearts opened.
So that, for each one of us, this can be
a journey of questions,
a journey of reflection, and
a journey of discovery.**

Adapted from: Susan Ivany, Gathering Lent/Easter 2018, page 31.

WORD

Hymn: MV #106 *I Am the Dream* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #106 *I Am the Dream* (verse 3)

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:31-38

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: *Past Lives*

Choral Offering: *How Then Shall I Live*
– Words & Music by Linnea Good

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Taking Kids to School* (video)

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 #639 *One More Step Along the World I Go*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Christ the Redeemer Parish

Living Skies Regional Council

Dundurn, Hanley

Elrose

File Hills

Lectionary Readings for March 3, 2024

Exodus 20:1-7

Psalms 19 (VU pp. 740-741)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Worship Schedule

(Lenten Movie Series)

Mar 3	Lent Three – <i>American Fiction</i> - Rev. Annette Taylor (with potluck lunch & AGM)
Mar 10	Lent Four – <i>Barbie</i> - Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 17	Lent Five – <i>The Holdovers</i> - Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 24	Palm Sunday - Rev. Annette Taylor (with communion)

Peace in and for Ukraine: An Ecumenical Letter



February 24th marks two years since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Nearly 30,000 lives have been lost and millions displaced. As this sombre anniversary approaches, Canadian Christian leaders have joined voices, urging support for refugees and for peace. Their message? Pray, advocate for diplomacy, aid refugees, remember the invasion's impact, and hope for reconciliation.

[Donate](#) to Mission and Service and stand with Ukraine and those suffering through this ongoing crisis. Read the [full news story and ecumenical letter](#).

[Image credit: omersukrugoksu/iStock.com]

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]