



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, March 3, 2024

3rd Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

Reader: Peggy Worrell



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"Everyone wants to be seen.
Everyone wants to be heard.
Everyone wants to be recognized as the person that they are
and not a stereotype or an image."
– Loretta Lynch*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #31 *Pure Love*
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

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

ALL: Lent is a season of mystery.

ONE: Today we are following Jesus
into the temple in 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 #117 *Jesus Christ is Waiting*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**Holy Mystery,
on this Lenten journey
we yearn for a new understanding
of loving justice.
We seek a spirit
of discernment and wisdom.
We move toward a deeper relationship
with You, the Ground of our Being.
So may we follow Jesus and
know new life.
May we seek the Spirit and
know new insight.
May we move toward You,
and know grace.**

Adapted from: Éric Hébert-Daly, Gathering Lent/Easter 2024, page 34.

WORD

Hymn: MV #157 *I Am a Child of God* (verses 1, 2 & 3)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #157 *I Am a Child of God* (verses 4 & 5)

Scripture Reading: John 2:13-22

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: *American Fiction*

Choral Offering: *Out of the Depths, O God*

– Words by Ruth Duck; Music by Ruth Duck and Jim Strathdee

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Accompanying Grandmothers*

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 #646 *We Are Marching*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland

Living Skies Regional Council

Eston: St. Andrew's

Naicam, Spalding

Foam Lake

Lectionary Readings for March 10, 2024

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (VU p. 831 Part One and Two)

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

Worship Schedule

(*Lenten Movie Series*)

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 (with communion)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 29	Good Friday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 31	Palm Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Black History Month Blog Series with Takudzwa Lavin Nyariri



In the most recent Black History Month blog series, Takudzwa Lavin Nyariri shares about the joys and challenges of keeping one's culture of birth while making space within Canadian society in "[I Am Because We Are.](#)"

February isn't long enough (even with a leap day!) to fully immerse ourselves in all aspects of Black history. Please keep the conversation going and continue to share these stories, and more, throughout the year. Please also share what your community of faith has been doing to honour Black History Month and to challenge anti-Black racism. There are lots of ways to stay in engaged in anti-racism work beyond February!

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

The United Church Bookstore: Dive into Climate Action with The Mod's Book Squad



Next week, on March 5, join Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and the [Rev. Christine Boyle](#), climate justice activist and city councillor, for a deep dive into [Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis.](#)

Explore our connection to Creation, deepen your faith, and discover actionable steps to fight climate change.

Register for this FREE webinar and join [The Mod's Book Squad](#)! Be a superhero for our planet—learn, discuss, and take action. Register today on [CHURCHx](#).

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]