



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, March 10, 2024

4th Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Reader: Loretta Korven



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"This makes me emotional, and I'm expressing it.
I have no difficulty holding both logic and feeling at the same time.
And it does not diminish my powers. It expands them."
— Barbie*

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 Fourth Sunday in Lent.

ALL: Lent is a season of mystery.

ONE: It is the season when we explore
Jesus' journey to the cross.

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 #12 *Come Touch Our Hearts*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**Holy Mystery,
Ground of our Being
we come to you
in this season**

of risk and renewal.
We come struggling
to understand and follow
the words and actions
of Jesus, our teacher.
We come wanting
to open our hearts and be filled
with the hope and strength
of your Spirit, our guide.
We come thankful
for your endless love and grace.

WORD

Hymn: MV #81 *Love Us Into Fullness* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #81 *Love Us Into Fullness* (verse 3)

Scripture Reading: John 3:14-21

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: *Barbie*

Choral Offering: *In Newness of Life*
– Words and Music by Gordon Light

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *The Moderator's PIE Day Message* (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: MV #98 *Like a River of Tears*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Church of the Open Bible

Living Skies Regional Council

Fort Qu'Appelle: St. Andrew's

Gainsborough

Goose Lake (Harris, Zealandia)

Lectionary Readings for March 17, 2024

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12 (VU pp.776-777) or Psalm 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Worship Schedule

(Lenten Movie Series & Holy Week)

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|--------|---|-----------------------|
| 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 |
| Apr 7 | “Jump Into the Story”: One on One with Samuel Landsbridge | - Rev. Ray Friesen |

Public, Intentional, and Explicit call to action against 2SLGBTQIA+ hate



Increasingly, 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and freedoms are under attack in Canada.

Beamsville, Ontario. Ponoka, Alberta. Summerland and Delta, BC. These are all the towns where United Churches were vandalized during Pride Month last year. The provincial governments of New Brunswick, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have all either considered or implemented so-called parents' rights bills that restrict consent for trans and questioning youth.

Increasingly, 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and freedoms are under attack in Canada.

There has been an exponential rise in anti-2SLGBTQIA+ hate-fueled movements, hate crimes, and hate speech across Canada. Anti-trans policies and policy proposals are emerging provincially and federally. There is also an alarming wave of anti-2SLGBTQIA+ demonstrations, vandalism, and assaults on affirming clergy and faith communities.

March 14 is PIE Day.

The United Church of Canada joins Affirm United/S'affimer Ensemble and Affirming Connections in urging individuals and communities of faith across Canada to commit to concerted efforts to be Public, Intentional, and Explicit (PIE) in the public square.

[Join the call to action](#) to promote and protect the rights and freedoms of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, particularly the outward acts of transphobia. Your voice represents a commitment to fostering welcoming and affirming spaces for all members, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. We believe that all 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals are created in the Divine image and that advocacy for their human rights is not antithetical to faith, but a central tenet of our religious faiths.

[Sign onto this open letter](#) to support faith communities committed to upholding the full and comprehensive human rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.

Communities of faith are also called to show up in public places to support gender and sexual diversity, especially now when challenges to human rights in Canada are leading to vulnerability, silencing, and violence against 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

In her [2024 PIE Day message](#), The United Church of Canada Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, encourages faithful and intentional witness to this affirming work. We are all called to be present—to broadly heed the challenge to actively work towards a vision of a more loving, boundless, expansive faith—a faith that breaks binaries and reminds us that we are all created in the diversity of God.