



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, March 17, 2024

5th Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Reader: Sharyn Erne



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"Love alone is capable of uniting living beings
in such a way as to complete and fulfil them,
for it alone takes them and joins them
by what is deepest in themselves."*

— Pierre Teilhard De Chardin

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 Fifth 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 #79 *Spirit, Open My Heart*
(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 #125 *When a Grain of Wheat* (sing twice)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #125 *When a Grain of Wheat* (sing once)

Scripture Reading: John 12:20-33

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: *The Holdovers*

Choral Offering: *God, Help Us When We're Frightened*
– Words by Walter Farquharson and Music by Ron Klusmeier

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Social Support Through Education*

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 #121 *From the Dawning of Creation* (1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays)
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Community Baptist Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Glenavon (Glenavon, Moffat)

Saskatoon: Grace Westminster

Shamrock (*closing*)

Lectionary Readings for March 24, 2024

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

Worship Schedule

(*Holy Week & Easter*)

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
Apr 14	<i>Becoming Christ's Body</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

United in Learning: Wait—Is This Racist?



Starting April 22, join a community of people from across the church who are exploring anti-racist practices! Together, and with themes from the book [*Wait—Is This Racist? A Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist Church*](#), we will explore practical ways of co-creating anti-racist congregations. As part of the first session, Kerry Connelly, the author of the book will join us.

Come as a community of faith team:

- Receive two copies of the book.
- Work together as a group on action plans.
- Create change in your congregation!

[Register](#) today, and find out more!

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

Rendez-vous 2024: Audacious Hope



Audacious Hope, a national gathering for youth, young adults, and their leaders, is happening July 3-6, 2024, at Brock University, St. Catharines, ON. Audacious Hope is an exciting new partnership between the Rendez-vous team of The United Church of Canada and the LIFT team of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Come pray—with inspiring worship speakers Adele Halliday and Mitchell Anderson. Come play—how about silent disco or square dancing? Come ponder—with Moderator Carmen Lansdowne about how to find and offer hope in today's world.

Registration opens April 15. Early bird registration from April 15–May 15: \$425. May 16–31 registration fee: \$500. Registration will close May 31, 2024. [Find out more.](#)

In conjunction with Audacious Hope, The United Church of Canada is also offering a special Ecumenical Young Adult Learning Community program (18–25 year olds) to explore faith and social justice with global peers. This program includes workshops, cultural exchange, and participation in the Audacious Hope event (July 3–7). Visit our [Opportunities webpage](#) to learn more, and apply for this special program by April 30!

[Image credit: Audacious Hope]