



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary
Reader: Sharyn Erne



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*There is no test. There are no rankings.
Jesus knows you, knows you are more screwed up
than you think you are, and still says warmly,
"Come sit with me."
— Steve Garnaas-Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

PALM PARADE

Gathering Hymn: MV #8 *And on This Path*
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship (*inspired by MV #8*)

ONE: We are on a path with Jesus
and we are entering his final week.
ALL: The gates of holiness are open wide.
ONE: Jesus is approaching Jerusalem
on a donkey.
ALL: The gates are open wide.
ONE: We begin Holy Week
with a parade of palms.
ALL: The gates are open wide.
ONE: Even in this week of betrayal and death
ALL: The gates are open wide.
ONE: Come, let us celebrate
the presence of the Sacred!
ALL: Open wide!
The gates are open wide!

Written by: Annette Taylor. 2024.

Opening Hymn: VU #124 *He Came Riding on a Donkey*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Holy Mystery,
Ground of our Being,
on this day
we join Jesus's followers
all over the world
shouting, "hosanna, save us."

As we move through
this day of celebration & betrayal,
and the coming days of Holy Week,
may your tears wash over us:
cleansing our fears,
healing our broken places
and renewing our dying hope.

Adapted from: Christine Jerrett, Gathering Lent/Easter 2021, page 38.

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11 (The Inclusive Bible)

Hymn: VU #126 *Ride On, Ride On, the Time Is Right* (verses 1, 2 & 3)
(please remain seated) (tune: VU 100)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #126 *Ride On, Ride On, the Time Is Right* (verses 4 & 5)

LAST SUPPER

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:12-26a (The Inclusive Bible)

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: *Betrayal*

Choral Offering: *If We Truly Believe*
– Words and Music by Don Besig

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>

Celebration of Communion

BETRAYAL & ARREST

Scripture: Mark 14:26b-50 (Inclusive Bible)

Closing Hymn: MV #73 *O God, Why Are You Silent?*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

East Side Church of God

Living Skies Regional Council

Four Town (Bredenburg, Langenburg, Saltcoats)

Gray

Lectionary Readings for March 31, 2024

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

Worship Schedule

(Holy Week & Easter)

Mar 29	Good Friday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 31	Easter 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
Apr 21	<i>Earth Day</i>	- Earthcare Partners

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.

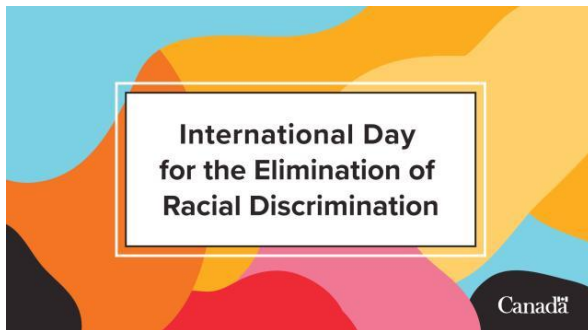
Come as a community of faith team:

- 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]

March 21 Is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



Each year, we mark March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This is a particular time to focus on anti-racist actions and to dismantling racism in all its forms.

For this year, we invite you to explore—and share!—the United Church’s brand-new list, [10 Additional Ways to Work Towards Anti-Racism](#). Please feel free to post this list on your own social media accounts!

[Image credit: The Government of Canada]