



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, March 31, 2024

### Easter Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Reader: Norma Hain



## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*The air is like a butterfly  
With frail blue wings.  
The happy earth looks at the sky  
And sings.  
— “Easter” by Joyce Kilmer*

### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

**Gathering Hymn: MV #115 *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New***  
(please remain seated)

### Call to Worship

ONE: Christ is risen!

**ALL: Christ is risen, indeed!**

ONE: New life is all around us.

Stop and experience the beauty.

**ALL: Where once there was death,  
now there is life!**

ONE: Christ is risen!

**ALL: Christ is risen, indeed!**

**Hallelujah!**

Adapted from: Laura J. Turnbull,

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/christ-risen-what-glorious-day>

**Opening Hymn: VU #155 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*** (words by Andrew Donaldson)  
(please stand as you are able)

### Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Holy Mystery,

Ground of our Being,

today is a day for rejoicing.

In the midst of the pain and turmoil

in our lives and in this world,

may we give thanks for the promise of new life.

**May we allow the good news of the empty tomb  
to dispel the shadows in our lives  
and remove the fear from our hearts.**

**May it be so.**

Written by: Annette Taylor, 2024.

**Hymn: MV #121 *Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!*** (verses 1, 2 & 3)  
(please remain seated)

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: MV #121 *Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!*** (verses 4 & 5)

## **WORD**

**Scripture Reading: Mark 16:1-8** (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: *Don't Be Afraid***

**Choral Offering: VU #409 *Morning Has Broken***

## **RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: *An Easter Message on 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)

**Sung Response: MV #90 *Don't Be Afraid***

**Closing Hymn: VU #164 *The Day of Resurrection***  
(please stand as you are able)

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing: VU #974 Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!**

**Postlude**

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**Prayer Cycles**

Ministerial

Faith Evangelical Missionary Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Grasslands (Glentworth, Mankota, McCord)

Grenfell

**Lectionary Readings for April 7, 2024**

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133 (VU p. 856)

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

**Worship Schedule**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Apr 7  | <i>Jump Into the Story: One on One with Samuel Landsbridge</i><br>- Rev. Ray Friesen |
| Apr 14 | <i>Becoming Christ's Body</i> - Rev. Annette Taylor                                  |
| Apr 21 | <i>Earth Day</i> - Earthcare Partners  |
| Apr 28 | <i>Camping Sunday</i> - Outreach Committee   |

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## The Moderator's Easter Message



In her [Easter message](#), Moderator Carmen Lansdowne's hope for the church is that we will know that even in our deepest grief the risen Christ will show up, call us by name, and remind us that this is not the end of our story. Watch it now on our [YouTube Channel](#).

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada/Moderator Carmen Lansdowne]

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## Santa Marta 5 trial date set for April 3



politically motivated.

In the wake of the 44th anniversary of the assassination of Bishop Óscar Romero in El Salvador, five prominent water defenders and community leaders from Santa Marta, El Salvador, are [scheduled to face trial on April 3](#). The case has gained international scrutiny amid allegations that the charges are

Out of their commitment to protect their country's rivers, the five, known as the "Santa Marta Five," led a successful national campaign to ban environmentally destructive mining in El Salvador that culminated in 2017 with a historic national law that prohibits mining.

The activists, [arrested on January 11, 2023](#), represent staff and community members of United Church of Canada Mission and Service global partner the [Association for Economic and Social Development \(ADES\)](#); the United Church has been a partner of ADES throughout its 30-year history.

The United Church of Canada is joining other international organizations in a call for charges against Santa Marta Five to be dropped. [Read Full Article](#)

Find out more at "[Report Advocates for Release of Santa Marta 5](#)" and "[United Church Calls for Release of Water Defenders](#)."

[Image credit: ADES]