



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, April 21, 2024

Earth Day

Leading Worship: Earthcare Partners
Music Director: James McLaughlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary



GATHERING

Welcome

Time for reflection: Video: “Together for the Love of Creation Earth Week”

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of the United Church of Canada

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E37LOWP4OLM>

Announcements & Land Acknowledgement

Mission Statement

We, at First United Church, guided by the spirit are striving to be an open and diverse community of faith. Through word and action, we pursue the values of spiritual growth, compassionate outreach, social justice and care of the earth. *(read in unison)*

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #115 *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New*

(please remain seated)

Video: “Mercy Mercy Me”, Marvin Gaye

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-6oYvlxAc0>

Prayer of Lament

Gracious and compassionate God,

I am heavy with the weight of

global heating

species extinction

air pollution

storms raging

countries flooding

people and animals dying.

I come before you

knowing that you invite me

to bring all of who I am to you:

Not just my praise and thanksgiving,

But also my tears and my anger,

My fears and anxieties,

My guilt and complicity,

**Receive me today, O God.
Hold me in this space as I open up to you.
Remind me that nothing is too difficult for you.
Remind me that nothing is too heavy for you.
Amen**

- Jessica Hetherington

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #427 *To Show by Touch and Word* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Trixie and Tommy Kirk

Hymn: VU #427 *To Show by Touch and Word* (verse 3)

Reading: The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

CBC Television Interviews

Scripture reading: Job 12:7-10

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.

Choral Offering: *O Great Earth*

- Words and music by Linnea Good

RESPONSE

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

Hymn: MV #144 *Like a Healing Stream*

Litany of Blessings for a Creation-Loving Choice

Linda: Today we bless our choices made to affirm our community with all Creation...

Jim: Psalm 104:10-13

Linda: Bless those who eat zero waste bulk food and wear second hand or preloved fashion...

Jim: "And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these". (Matthew 6:28-29)

ALL: We give you thanks for these gifts of care for all the Earth, and for the choices to bring healing and hope to Creation that are still within us waiting to emerge. We grieve the losses our environment has sustained and the extinction and endangerment of creatures and all growing things. We ask your guidance in working as individuals and as communities both local and worldwide to bless Creation. Amen.

Linda: Bless those who have planted a pollinator garden or grow vegetables...

Jim: Genesis 1:11-12

Linda: Bless all of us who recall recent or long ago choices...

Jim: "For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song; and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands". (Isaiah 55:12)

ALL: We give you thanks for these gifts of care for all the Earth, and for the choices to bring healing and hope to Creation that are still within us waiting to emerge. We grieve the losses our environment has sustained and the extinction and endangerment of creatures and all growing things. We ask your guidance in working as individuals and as communities both local and worldwide to bless Creation. Amen.

~ Adapted from Maren C. Tirabassi

Closing Hymn: VU # 884 *You Shall Go Out with Joy*

(please stand as you are able)

Benediction

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

Postlude

Sources:

Alydia Smith: "Act Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis." United Church Publishing House
ucrdstore.ca

Kate Raworth: Doughnut Economics: *Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist*

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Full Gospel Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Imperial

Kamsack: Westminster

Kennedy(Kennedy, Langbank)

Lectionary Readings for April 28, 2024

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31 (VU p. 746 Parts 3&4)

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Worship Schedule

Apr 28	<i>Camping Sunday</i>	- Outreach Committee
May 5	<i>Red Dress Sunday</i>	- Affirming Ministry Group
May 12	<i>Christian Family Sunday</i> (with communion)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 19	<i>Pentecost</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Take Action for Climate Justice during Earth Week!



During [Earth Week](#) (April 21-28), join Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and others as we pray, learn, and act for our planet! The United Church of Canada is joining with numerous denominations and faith-based organizations under one banner, [Together for the Love of Creation](#), and invite you to organize events, [raise your voice](#), and deepen your knowledge of climate change. [Register](#) and find inspiration!

National online events include:

- April 18 at noon EDT: [Works in Action: Caring for Creation](#)
- April 22 at 1:00 p.m. ADT: [Diakonia, The Diaconate, and Climate Change](#)
- April 22 at 5:00 p.m. MDT: [Earth Day Prayer Circle](#)
- April 22 at 7:00 p.m. CDT: [Divesting for the Love of Creation](#)
- April 23 at noon EDT: [Watershed 4: Re-Orientation](#)
- April 25 at 1:00 p.m. EDT: [Climate Change, Eco-anxiety, and Habits of Hope](#)

Let's work together! Share your event on social media using #EarthWeek2024 #FLCPrayLearnAct2024 #UCCan.

[Video image credit: The United Church of Canada]

THANK YOU to United Church Volunteers



Volunteering matters. We say a big thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who guide the United Church nationally, and to the countless volunteers in communities across the country. By sharing your time, skills, empathy, and creativity you strength our communities and our United Church.

During National Volunteer Week, April 14–20, 2024, we recognize every volunteer and celebrate their contribution to the United Church. Thank you for all that you do!

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]