



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH**  
Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, May 5, 2024  
**Red Dress Day**



Leading Worship: Affirming Ministry Group  
Music Director: James McLaughlan  
Pianist: Mary Anderson

**GATHERING**

**Moment for Reflection**

*Red Dress Day honours and brings awareness  
to the thousands of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people  
who have been subject to disproportionate violence in Canada.*

**Land Acknowledgement & Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Gathering Hymn: MV #155 *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New***  
(please remain seated)

**Recognition of Graduates**

Kinsey Bender  
Janelle Stohlhandske-Dale

**Prayer for All Graduates**

**Introduction to Red Dress Day**

**Call to Worship**

ONE: Say their names:

**ALL: Dinah, Tamar, Bathsheba,  
Vashti, Suzannah**

ONE: The Hebrew Scriptures do not hide the truth,  
About women being subjected to violence

**ALL: As Being the Truth,  
Even among God's People.**

ONE: Say their names:

Violence against Women and Girls,  
Disproportionately experienced by Indigenous Families,

**ALL: Is a lineage of names reaching back in time.**

ONE: We come to worship with Creator,

Whose preference is for those who are hurting,

**ALL: Who is moved to act by the tears of suffering,  
Who comforts the grieving and sorrow-filled.**

ONE: We come to join our hearts to Creator's heart.

**ALL: So that healing and hope can flow through us,  
Into a world that hurts.**

Written by: Diane Meredith & Jonathan Neufeld (Canada), 2024. Mennonite Church Canada  
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**Opening Hymn: MV #12 *Come Touch Our Hearts***  
(please stand as you are able)

**Opening Prayer**

**Creator God,  
as we worship today:  
may we open our minds  
to learn more  
about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women  
and Two-Spirit People;  
may we open our hearts  
to feel the pain and sorrow  
of Indigenous families  
with missing and murdered loved ones;  
and may we open our souls  
to experience your transformative Spirit  
and thus take one more step  
toward truth and reconciliation  
with our Indigenous neighbours.**

Written by: Annette Taylor

**The Lord's Prayer**

**WORD**

**Hymn: *Everything is Beautiful***

– Words & Music by Ray Stevens (please remain seated)

**Community Learning Time**

- Melanie Davis

**Hymn: *Everything is Beautiful*** (chorus)

**Scripture Reading: John 15:9-12** (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.**

**Video: *We Are More Than Murdered & Missing***

Tamara Bernard (TEDx Thunder Bay)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyILSRQ5kx8>

**Reflection on the Video**

**Choral Offering: *Child of God***

– Words & Music by Jim Strathdee

(new verse by Annette Taylor)

## RESPONSE

### Prayers of the People

**Closing Hymn:** *Take This Heart of Mine*

– Words & Music by Jim Strathdee  
(please stand as you are able)

### Commissioning & Benediction

**Choral Closing:** VU #971 *Amen*

### Postlude

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### Worship Schedule

May 12	<i>Christian Family Sunday</i> (with communion)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 19	<i>Pentecost</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 26	<i>Children's Sunday</i> (at Kinsmen Park with potluck lunch)	- Sunday School
Jun 2	<i>Pride Sunday</i>	- Affirming Ministry Group

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### Recent Events

Thursday, May 2 – Irene Bender Memorial Service at Riverview Village Estates

### Prayer Cycles

#### Ministerial

New Life Seventh Day Adventist Church

#### Living Skies Regional Council

Kelrose: Kelvington, Rose Valley

Saskatoon: Knox

### Lectionary Readings for May 12, 2024

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1 (VU p.724)

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

## May Is PAR Month!



Help spread the word: May is PAR month!

Pre-authorized remittance is a method of giving that allows you to set up a monthly contribution that will continue to fund amazing work all year long.

PAR is a way that your monthly gift to your community of faith, and to the larger work of The United Church of Canada through Mission and Service, can be automatically withdrawn from your bank account to fund the ongoing work.

If you want more information about PAR or wish to switch your offerings to PAR please contact the office at First United. They can set you up quickly and easily.

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

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The United Church of Canada is celebrating its [100th anniversary](#) in 2025, and we are kicking off a year-long celebration with a [landmark worship at Metropolitan United Church](#) in Toronto on June 9, 2024. We hope you will join us in person or on the livestream!

[Sign up now](#) for our new monthly Centennial Newsletter! Explore the rich history of The United Church of Canada through images and video pulled from our archives. Learn more about our history of deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.

Subscribe to the Centennial Newsletter to make sure you don't miss important updates and opportunities to mark this historic moment. Together, let's celebrate 100 years of milestones within Canada and around the world!

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