



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, February 2, 2025

### Black History Month

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Music Director: James McLauchlan  
Pianist: Mary Anderson  
Reader: Harold Lapuz



## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*"History has shown us that courage can be contagious,  
and hope can take on a life of its own."*  
—Michelle Obama

### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

**Gathering Hymn: MV #21 *Open Our Hearts***  
(please remain seated)

### Call to Worship

ONE: Jesus enters our village today  
to the laughter of our children,

**ALL: the graciousness of our elders,**

ONE: the excitement of our friends,

**ALL: the songs of the choir.**

ONE: He has come to us,  
to the burdens we carry,

**ALL: bringing the peace that we seek,  
and the hope that we cling to.**

ONE: Jesus enters our village today,

**ALL: and we receive him gladly.**

Adapted from: *Jesus in the Village: A Service for Black History Month, 2024.*

<https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2024-01/2024-bhm-jesus-in-the-village.docx>

**Opening Hymn: VU #577 *I've Got Peace like a River***  
(please stand as you are able)

**Opening Prayer** - led by Zion Orola

**Loving Creator,  
we gather to celebrate Black History Month.  
We come with thanks and awe.  
As we meet today,/ nbv  
we pray that our hearts may be open  
to hearing the stories  
of our Black brothers and sisters.  
Bless this time and this place  
where you have made your presence known.**

Adapted from: *Jesus in the Village: A Service for Black History Month*, 2024.

<https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2024-01/2024-bhm-jesus-in-the-village.docx>

**The Lord's Prayer**

## **WORD**

**Hymn: MV #62 *There Is Room for All***  
(please remain seated)

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: MV #62 *There Is Room for All***  
(please remain seated)

**Scripture Reading: Luke 4:21-30** (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:** *“Unsuitable” Settlers*

**Choral Offering: *Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray***  
- Words and Music by Harry T. Burleigh

## **RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: *A Classroom of Care***

**Offering Invitation**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Take the gifts we offer,  
not as a means to rescue others,  
but as a means for relationship and for connection,  
as a means to build bridges between strangers,  
as a means to embody the good news. Amen**

Adapted from: Gord Dunbar, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2015, page 40.

## Celebration of Communion

**Closing Hymn:** VU #697 *O for a World*

## Commissioning & Benediction

**Choral Closing:** *Go In Love*

– Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig, Music by Don Besig

## Postlude

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## Worship Schedule

Feb 9	<i>Responding to Jesus' Call</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 16	<i>Luke's Beatitudes</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Feb 23	<i>Loving our Enemies</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 2	<i>Transfiguration</i>	- Norma Hain

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## Prayer Cycles

### Ministerial

First United Church

### Living Skies Regional Council

Four Town (Bredenbury, Langenburg, Saltcoats)

Gray

## Lectionary Readings for February 9, 2025

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)

Psalms 138 (VU p.860)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

## The Moderator Thanks Bishop Budde for her “Bold and Prophetic” Words



Moderator Carmen Lansdowne wrote a powerful letter of support and gratitude to Bishop Mariann Budde following her address to President Trump on January 21st.

In her letter to Bishop Budde Moderator Carmen says:

*“What you preached, and then speaking directly to the president, was bold and prophetic. And it was deeply rooted in our faith tradition. You stood on the shoulders of generations of political theologians who preached, in love, that the compulsion to dominate must not be allowed to reign.”*

Read the [full news post and the Moderator's letter to Bishop Budde](#).

[Image credit: Justin Tsucalas/Washington National Cathedral]

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## Succeed at Advocacy: Casting a Vision for a Better World



Your voice counts with our elected officials! On February 25th at 7:00 p.m. ET, join [Succeed at Advocacy: Casting a Vision for a Better World](#), a webinar that will equip you with the skills to effectively advocate for your community and United Church of Canada partners with elected officials.

Connect with others, share your experience, and learn how to build community impact and engage with Members of Parliament. [Learn more and register now!](#)

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]