



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, February 16, 2025

6th after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLaughlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Reader: Ila Wilms



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*“There is a quiet light that shines in every heart...
This shy inner light is what enables us to recognize
and receive our very presence here as blessing.
Though suffering and chaos befall us,
they can never quench that inner light of providence.”
—John O’Donohue*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship

ONE: Blessed are you.

ALL: Me?

ONE: Yes, Blessed are you!

ALL: By whom?

ONE: By God.

ALL: Why?

ONE: Because God loves you.

Because God’s love is never-ending.

Because God’s love is grace—freely given.

ALL: I am blessed.

We are blessed—

ONE: any who are grieving or impoverished,
any who are hungry or hated,
any who are defamed or reviled.

**ALL: All are blessed by the grace of God.
All creation is blessed.**

ONE: Let us celebrate the presence of God!

Adapted from: Richard Bott, Grace U.C., Burlington, Ont.

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/blessed-are-you-me>

Opening Hymn: MV #28 *God of the Bible*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer - led by Brynn Ruetz

**Holy Mystery,
Ground of our Being
as we journey through lives
filled with both blessing and woe,
we ask for your guidance
to choose the life
you would have us lead.
May this time of worship
fill us with compassion
that we may love others
as you love and support us.**

Adapted from: Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville
<https://gatheringworship.ca/>

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: MV #179 *Sisters Let Us Walk Together* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #179 *Sisters Let Us Walk Together* (verse 3)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:17-26 (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: *Blessing and Woe*

Choral Offering: *How Then Shall I Live*
- Words and music by Linnea Good

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Refugee Sponsorship Group*

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.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: MV #165 *There Is a Time*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: *Go In Love*
– Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig, Music by Don Besig

Postlude

Recent Events

Saturday, February 15 – Charlene Holden Celebration of Life – Legion Hall

Worship Schedule - Lenten Movie Series

Feb 23	<i>Loving our Enemies</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 2	<i>Transfiguration</i>	- Norma Hain
Mar 9	<i>Conclave</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 16	<i>A Complete Unknown</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

Living Skies Regional Council

U of S Ecumenical Chaplaincy
Grasslands (Glentworth, Mankota, McCord)
Grenfell

Lectionary Readings for February 23, 2025

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (VU p. 763)
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

Ecumenical Church Leaders Call for Permanent Ceasefire



Four church leaders have jointly issued a statement supporting the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, and urging a permanent ceasefire.

The statement is signed by The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator, The United Church of

Canada; The Most Rev. Anne Germond, Acting-Primate, Anglican Church of Canada; The Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Moderator, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and Rev. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Read the [full news story and statement](#).

[Image credit: ardasavasciogullari | iStock.com]

Democratic Republic of Congo Humanitarian Crisis Intensifies: Urgent Aid Needed



Violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has displaced 400,000 people this year, adding to the 4.6 million already displaced.

The United Church of Canada, through its Global Partnership, is

supporting local partner Église du Christ au Congo's efforts to provide food, shelter, water, and mental health support. We urge prayers and donations to the Global Emergency Response Fund to aid those affected by this escalating crisis. Read the [full news story](#).

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