



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, February 23, 2025

7th after Epiphany

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Reader: Ila Wilms



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

"The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend." ~ Abraham Lincoln

*"Returning hate for hate multiplies hate,
adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.
Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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

Call to Worship

ONE: We have gathered to celebrate
the presence of the Divine

**ALL: We have come
seeking comfort, inspiration,
community, and insight.**

ONE: We have come
to open ourselves
to the power of the Essence of Love

**ALL: We have come
to offer up the seasons
and the turnings in our lives,
and to ask God's help
in our learning and in our growing.**

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*

Opening Hymn: MV #79 *Spirit, Open My Heart*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer - led by Olivia Bingham

**Holy Mystery,
there is a place for all
in your loving embrace.
May we lean into that tender care,
confident and trusting.
We know that your way
is full of compassion.
May we open our hearts
to share your kindness
and mercy with others.**

Adapted from: Laura Turnbull, 2019

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/ever-welcoming-god-you-assure-us>

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #679 *Let There Be Light* (verses 1, 2 & 3)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #679 *Let There Be Light* (verses 5 & 6)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:27-38 (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: *Love Your Enemies*

Choral Offering: *Mercy*
- words and music by Gordon Light

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Social & Funeral Lunch Convenors*

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: VU #678 *For the Healing of the Nations*
(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

Worship Schedule

Lenten Movie Series

Mar 2	<i>Transfiguration Sunday</i>	- Norma Hain
Mar 9	<i>Conclave</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 16	<i>A Complete Unknown</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 23	<i>Nickel Boys</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

New Life Seventh Day Adventist Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Saskatoon: Grosvenor Park

Gull Lake: Knox

Regina: Harmony

Hudson Bay Larger Parish

Lectionary Readings for March 2, 2025

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99 (VU p. 819)

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)

Your Voice Counts! Learn How to Use it Effectively



Your voice counts with our elected officials!
On February 25, 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]

The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy to Be Awarded Coronation Medal



The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, 37th Moderator of The United Church of Canada (at left in photo), will receive the King Charles Coronation Medal in recognition of her leadership and commitment to interfaith community service.

This is not her first medal of recognition; in 2013, the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador awarded Dr. Pardy a Queen's

Jubilee Medal in recognition of her contributions to church and community.

Read the [full news story](#).

[Image credit: Marion Pardy]