



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, March 23, 2025



Lent Three

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary
Reader: George Reaves

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"Faith is the bird that feels the light and
sings when the dawn is still dark."
— Rabindranath Tagore*

Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #14 *Where Two or Three Are Gathered* (sung 4 times)
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: Come to this space
to continue your Lenten journey.
**ALL: We have come
in the midst of trials and temptations.**
ONE: Come to this space
to receive inspiration and strength
from God's faithfulness.
**ALL: We have come
with the thirst of desert wanderers.**
ONE: Come to this space
to receive the living waters
of the Spirit of Love.
**ALL: We come to be still
in the presence of God.**

Written by: Annette Taylor, 2025.

Opening Hymn: VU #652 *Be Still, My Soul*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer - led by Zoe Orola

**Holy Mystery,
in these days of Lent,
we come to find
patience, trust, and hope.
May we be
open to your guiding love.
May we be
released from fear and
filled with your peace.**

Written by Annette Taylor, 2025.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: MV #84 *In You There Is a Refuge* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #84 *In You There Is a Refuge* (verse 2)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (The Inclusive Bible)
Psalms 63:1-8 (VU p. 781, Refrain 2)

ONE: We read these texts so that in them we may find wisdom for life.

ALL: **May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.**

Reflection: *Nickel Boys*

Choral Offering: *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*
- words by James Gertmenian &
music by Jean Stevens Strathdee

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Fowl Supper Group*

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

**Holy Mystery,
may our gifts of money, time and talent
be a catalyst for truth about
how we are blessed and
how we are broken and**

**how we are given to your world
for hope and healing.**

Amen

Adapted from: Karen Boivin, 2022

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/loving-god-may-these-gifts-be-catalyst-truth>

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #288 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: MV #214 *May God's Sheltering Wings*

Postlude

Worship Schedule

Lenten Movie Series/Holy Week

Mar 30	<i>Wicked</i> (potluck for Patti McCleary)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 6	<i>I'm Still Here</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 13	<i>Palm Sunday</i> (with communion)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 18	<i>Good Friday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 20	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Salvation Army

Living Skies Regional Council

KelRose (Kelvington, Rose Valley)

Kinistino

Kipling

Lectionary Readings for March 30, 2025

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32 (VU p. 759)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

100 Words of Hope



A minister in the early church, Paul, said it well for me, "No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation can ever separate us from the love of God, revealed in Christ Jesus..."

*Two-thousand years ago or today, this is world-changing. Even in moments when humankind's worst impulses are enormous, there is a real, vital, overwhelming impulse that draws us towards healing and wholeness - God's love - and there is **nothing** that can stop it. It may be hard to believe, it takes a lot of work, but we live in that hope.*

—The Very Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Grace United Church, Burlington, ON

Feeling anxious about our world right now? So are we. But we know there is hope.

We've invited United Church leaders to share "100 Words of Hope" that speak to these moments of high anxiety, and that lean into deep spirituality.

We also invite YOU to share your own 100-word reflection, poem, or prayer on hope and faith in these times. Submit your reflection or prayer using this [form](#).

Together, we can lift each other up in faith, hope, and love.

We are not alone. We live in God's world.

[Image still credit: The United Church of Canada]