



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, March 9, 2025



Lent One

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

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"Our faith is a living thing precisely because
it walks hand-in-hand with doubt.
If there was only certainty and no doubt,
there would be no mystery.
And therefore no need for faith."
— Cardinal Lawrence in Conclave*

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 begin your Lenten journey.

**ALL: We have come
with our temptations and our laments.**

ONE: Come to this space
to understand what you are being called
to let go of.

**ALL: We come as forgiven people
ready to forgive ourselves and others.**

ONE: Come to this space
to find and accept the abundance and extravagance
of the Holy Mystery's love and grace.

**ALL: We come to celebrate
the presence of God.**

Adapted from: Catherine Tovell, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2025, page 30.

Opening Hymn: MV #65 *When We Are Tested*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer - led by Sazia Tala Noora
Holy Mystery,
in these days of Lent,
lead us through the wilderness
where nothing seems familiar and
into a place where we notice you calling us.
Travel with us
as we face those parts of ourselves
that would keep us from loving our neighbours.
Turn us gently, and
may your Spirit find us willing.

Adapted from: Wendy MacLean, 2022.

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/holy-one-word-life-these-days-lent-lead-us>

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: MV #118 *Me Alone* (sung twice)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #118 *Me Alone* (sung once)
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:1-13 (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.

Reflection: *Conclave*

Choral Offering: *A Wilderness Wandering People*
– words & music by Jim Strathdee

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: *Building Climate Resiliency*

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

Grace for Lunch: VU #552 *For Food In a World*

Closing Hymn: VU #664 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Worship Schedule

Lenten Movie Series

Mar 16	<i>A Complete Unknown</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 23	<i>Nickel Boys</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Mar 30	<i>Wicked</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 6	<i>I'm Still Here</i>	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Imperial

Indian Head: St. Andrew's

Kamsack: Westminster

Lectionary Readings for March 16, 2025

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27 (VU pp. 753-755)

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

United Church and 30+ Asset Owners Urge Banks to Maintain Net Zero Commitments



The United Church of Canada joined 33 other asset owners this week in calling on the six biggest banks in Canada to maintain their net zero commitments. All six big banks left the UN-backed Net Zero Banking Alliance in January, following departures by the biggest U.S. banks ahead of Donald Trump’s inauguration. Read the [full news post](#).

[Image credit: © Wayne Stadler | Dreamstime.com]

Mission and Service Stories: PIE—Public, Intentional, Explicit Inclusion



PIE Day in church circles has nothing to do with math. “PIE” is short for “[public, intentional, and explicit](#)”—the standards we hold ourselves to when we seek to live into being affirming, welcoming, and inclusive people and communities.

[Your gifts through Mission and Service](#) sustain life-transforming advocacy and education work, including supporting Two Spirit and LGBTQAI+ refugees fleeing for their lives and providing community awareness education, human rights programs, and safe spaces.

[Image credit: Affirm United/S’affirmer Ensemble]