



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
Sunday, April 20, 2025

### Easter Sunday

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



## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*"[God] has written the promise of resurrection,  
not in books alone,  
but in every leaf in springtime."  
— Martin Luther*

### Land Acknowledgement & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

**Gathering Hymn: VU #412 *This Is the Day*** (verses 1 & 2)  
(please remain seated)

### Call to Worship

ONE: Christ is risen!

**ALL: Christ is risen, indeed!**

ONE: Alleluia!

**ALL: Alleluia, amen!**

ONE: We come to receive the story of Christ,  
risen from the dead.

**ALL: We come to understand the story of our lives,  
lives made new.**

ONE: We come to remember who we are.

**ALL: An Easter people!**

ONE: We come to remember whose we are.

**ALL: Disciples of the Christ.**

ONE: In joy, in wonder, in love..

**ALL: We worship God! Alleluia!**

Written by: Richard Bott, Grace U.C. Burlington, ON

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/christ-risen-we-come-receive-story-christ>

**Opening Hymn: VU #155 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia*** (lyrics by Andrew Donaldson)  
(please stand as you are able)

**Opening Prayer** - led by Zion Orola

**God of New Life,**

**on this Easter morning we come**

**celebrating the good news**

**of your transforming love.**

**Together we join our voices in praise;**

**with rejoicing we lift up our hearts;**

**in gratitude we offer our thanks;**

**united we celebrate your presence.**

**We are your people and**

**alleluia is our song.**

Adapted from: Diane Bennett-Jones, *Gathering*, L/E 2014, page 42.

**The Lord's Prayer**

## **WORD**

**Hymn: MV #121 *Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!*** (verses 1, 2 & 3)  
(please remain seated)

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: MV #121 *Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!*** (verses 4 & 5)

**Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12** (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: *The Promise of Easter***

**Choral Offering: *On This Joyful Easter Morn***  
- by M. Lantz & D. Lantz

## **RESPONSE**

**Minute for Mission: *Stories of The United Church of Canada***

**Offering Invitation**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**In words of compassion,**

**in words of reconciliation,**

**Christ is alive!**

**In support for those living in fear**

**and with a sense of helplessness,**

**Christ is alive!**

**In gifts for the local church,  
in gifts for a needy world,  
Christ is alive!  
Christ is alive,  
may we be the evidence  
of his vitality. Amen.**

Adapted from: David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/words-compassion-words-reconciliation-christ-alive>

## **Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: VU #158 *Christ is Alive***  
(please stand as you are able)

## **Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing: VU #958 *Halle, Halle, Halle***

## **Postlude**

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## **Worship Schedule**

Apr 27	<i>Earth Sunday</i>	- Earthcare Partners
May 4	<i>Red Dress Sunday</i> (new Life Elders)	- Affirming Ministry Group
May 11	<i>Shepherd God</i> (with baptisms)	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 18	<i>Pistang Bukid</i> (Asian Heritage Sunday)	- Rev. Annette Taylor

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## **Prayer Cycles**

### **Ministerial**

Victory Family Church

### **Living Skies Regional Council**

Lemberg, Abernethy

Long Lake (Regina Beach)

Loreburn, Hawarden (Elbow-Loreburn)

## **Lectionary Readings for April 27, 2025**

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

# Easter Reminds Us That Love and Forgiveness Are the Paths to a Better Future



In her [Easter message](#), Moderator Carmen Lansdowne connects the transformative power of Easter with the prophetic vision of Isaiah 65:17. Just as Easter demonstrates the possibility of resurrection and new life, Isaiah speaks of God creating "new heavens and a new earth." In these uncertain times,

we explore how the hope of Easter and the promise of new creation can guide us forward, reminding us that love and forgiveness are the paths to a better future.

[Video still credit: The United Church of Canada]

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## Earth Week, April 20 – 27, Starts on Sunday



**Earth Week 2025**  
**Together for the Love of Creation**

Earth Week begins this Easter Sunday, April 20, and culminates in Earth Sunday, April 27. Join friends in faith across the country in prayer, learning, and action for climate justice. Your participation matters!

- **Read and Share:** The United Church of Canada's [2023 and 2024 Sustainability Report](#).
- **Plan and Attend:** Organize or join [local events for climate action](#).
- **Share the Vision:** Watch and share the [Earth Week video](#).
- **Worship Together:** Draw on [Earth Sunday worship resources](#).
- **Learn about Climate Realities:** Register for [Roll Away the Stone for Climate](#) with Mission and Service Global Partners (April 23, online).
- **Pray on Earth Day:** Join the [Mother Earth Day Jubilee Prayer Service](#) (April 22, hybrid).
- **Showcase Green Efforts:** Host/join [Faithful Footprints Retrofit Tours](#).

Every action you take nurtures hope and strengthens our community.