



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, April 27, 2025

Earth Day

Leading Worship: Earthcare Partners
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

"Well done is better than well said"
— Benjamin Franklin,

"Actions speak louder than words."
— This proverb was first voiced, at the time of the English Civil War, by John Pym, the English parliamentarian.

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: Whether we live near mountains or in the prairies—

ALL: We are one in Christ.

ONE: Whether our winters are balmy or our summers are cool—

ALL: We are one in Christ.

ONE: Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific or Arctic Ocean or somewhere in between—

ALL: We are one in Christ.

ONE: Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape—

ALL: We are one in Christ.

ONE: In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation—

ALL: We are one in Christ.

Adapted from the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, "Be the Church: Protect the Environment" worship service

Opening Hymn: VU #296 *This Is God's Wondrous World*
(please stand as you are able)

Trixie and Tommy

Opening Prayer

As we gather, we are thankful for your Creation:

For light and darkness;

For air, wind and sky;

For earth and sea;

For seeds, harvests, and plant life;

For sunlight, moonlight, and starlight;

for every living creature, swarming, flying, creeping, and grazing;

for our lives.

In our actions, meditations, and prayers, may we honour and celebrate your very good

Creation, as we seek wisdom on how to share our gratitude and love in good and healing ways.

Written by Alydia Smith from “Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis” page 127.

The Lord’s Prayer

WORD

Hymn: MV #30 *It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker* (verses 1 & 2)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #30 *It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker* (verses 3 & 4)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-4, 25, 26, 31
Mark 4:35-41 (The Inclusive Bible)

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.

Video: Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne - *Hope for the Planet: The United Church’s Vision for a Sustainable Future*

Reflection: *Our Power, Our Planet*

Choral Offering: *I Am Your Mother*
- Words by Shirley Erena Murray, and music by Ron Klusmeier

RESPONSE

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

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Mystery,

you transform lives:

the hungry are fed;

the lonely are befriended; and
the broken are restored to wholeness.
May these gifts
be part of the transformation.
We offer them with humility and hope. Amen.

Adapted from: Laura J. Turnbull,
<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/blessed-healer-you-transform-lives>

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #291 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Worship Schedule

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
May 25	<i>Children's Sunday/Camping Sunday</i> (at Kinsmen Park with potluck lunch)	- Sunday School

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Alpine Church of God

Living Skies Regional Council

Lumsden: St. Andrew's

Luseland

MAMOHKAMATOWIN

Maple Creek

Lectionary Readings for May 4, 2025

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)

Psalm 30 (VU p. 757)

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

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.