



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

Sunday, April 6, 2025

### Lent Five

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Music Director: James McLauchlan

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

Reader: Marg Wiebe



## GATHERING

### Moment for Reflection

*"...new life starts in the dark.  
Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb,  
or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark."  
— Barbara Brown Taylor*

### 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: In the seed that lies unseen,  
resting, cold, and still, God is—

**ALL: and hope grows.**

ONE: In the possibilities that await us,  
unknown, unimagined, God is—

**ALL: and life grows.**

ONE: In our hurt and emptiness,  
masked, buried, overlooked, God is—

**ALL: and healing grows.**

ONE: In this time of worship, singing, praying, and being,  
we come to know this God who is—

**ALL: and we grow.**

ONE: Let us celebrate the presence of God!

Adapted from: Wetaskiwin Writers, Grace Lutheran Church and First U.C., Wetaskiwin, Alta.

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/seed-lies-unseen-resting-cold-and-still>

**Opening Hymn: VU #703 *In the Bulb There is a Flower***  
(please stand as you are able)

**Opening Prayer** - led by Elynn Bilanski

**Holy Mystery,  
Ground of our Being,  
we thank you  
for the joy of being human and  
for the lessons of the wilderness.**

**In this time of worship,  
may our hearts be open  
to your word and  
our minds open  
to the transforming power  
of your love.**

Adapted from Rob Fennell, *Worship for All Seasons II*, Year C, pg. 109.

**The Lord's Prayer**

## **WORD**

**Hymn: MV #17 *God in the Darkness*** (verses 1 & 2)  
(please remain seated)

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: MV #17 *God in the Darkness*** (verse 3)  
(please remain seated)

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21** (The Inclusive Bible)  
**Psalms 126** (VU p. 850, 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: *I'm Still Here***

**Choral Offering: *The Rose***  
- words & music by Amanda McBroom

## **RESPONSE**

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

**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: MV #98 *Like a River of Tears***  
(please stand as you are able)

## **Commissioning & Benediction**

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

## **Postlude**

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## **Worship Schedule**

*Holy Week/Earth Sunday*

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
Apr 27	<i>Earth Sunday</i>	- Earthcare Partners

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## **Prayer Cycles**

### **Ministerial**

Victory Family Church

### **Living Skies Regional Council**

Kyle

Regina: Lakeview

Langham: Knox

Lanigan

La Ronge

## **Lectionary Readings for April 13, 2025**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29      Luke 19:28-40

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16 (VU 758 Parts 1 & 2)

Philippians 2:5-11      Luke 22:14-39

## Elections Are The Time To Use Our “Outside Voices”



As the country goes to the polls on April 28, The United Church of Canada urges you to vote with your values.

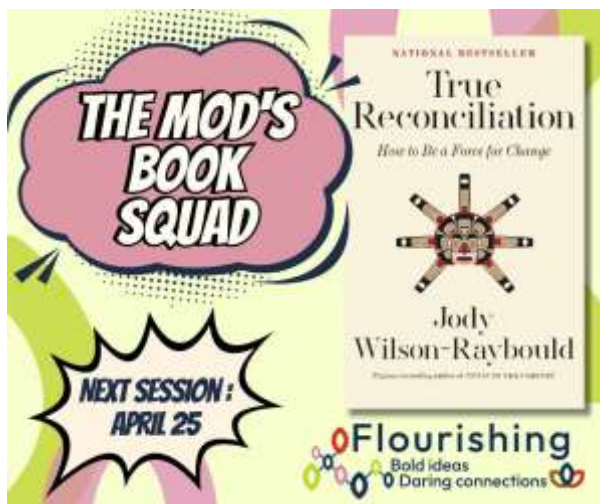
[In this video](#), General Secretary, the Rev. Michael Blair, emphasizes the importance of advocating for equity, inclusion, diversity, and care for vulnerable communities, particularly the marginalized and those displaced or suffering due to global crises like escalating wars. This election, we encourage voting with

compassion, equity, and the pursuit of justice. Let's foster bold belonging and contribute to God's dream of justice and peace. Read the [full news story and statement](#).

[Video still credit: The United Church of Canada]

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## The United Church Bookstore: Be a Force for Change!



Engage with *True Reconciliation* this month! Join Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and Lori Ransom on Thursday, April 25, 2025, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. ET. Prepare for an insightful discussion on Jody Wilson-Raybould's impactful book, [True Reconciliation: How to be a Force for Change](#), at the next Mod's Book Squad session. Join Moderator Carmen Lansdowne and special guest Lori Ransom as they explore the book's practical framework—Learn, Understand, and

Act—providing accessible steps towards true reconciliation for everyone.

[Register on CHURCHx](#) and take advantage of our special offer: use code **MODSQUAD** for 15% off when you buy two or more Mod's Book Squad featured books.

We look forward to you joining the conversation!

[Image credit: The United Church of Canada| McClelland & Steward Publishing]