



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, May 4, 2025



Red Dress Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
and Affirming Ministry Group
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Connie Sykes
Reader: Amy Popick

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

Red Dress Day, also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People, is observed on May 5th. The day honours and brings awareness to the thousands of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people who have been subject to disproportionate violence in Canada.

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: To wake in the morning
is to accept God's gift of another day.

**ALL: To get out of bed
is to accept God's invitation
to live fully and well.**

ONE: To move in Creation
is to commit to its care.

**ALL: To pause for times of prayer
is to deepen our communion with God and
with our deepest and best selves.**

ONE: Each new day affords opportunities
to help others and to care for the world.

**ALL: May our worship today encourage us and
bring us gratitude
for the life God has given us.**

ONE: Come let us celebrate God's presence!

Adapted from: Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont.

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/wake-morning-accept-gods-gift-another-day>

Opening Hymn: VU #166 *Joy Comes with the Dawn*
(please stand as you are able)

Presentation of Life Elder Certificates

Opening Prayer - led by Sazia Tala Noora

**Holy Mystery,
Ground of our Being
we gather today
to give thanks for a new day,
to celebrate our elders in the church and
to remember our call
to help others.
May we open our hearts and minds
to our neighbours' pain and
be moved to action
by your Loving Spirit.**

Written by: Annette Taylor, 2025.

The Lord's Prayer

WORD

Hymn: VU #600 *When I Needed a Neighbour* (verses 1, 2 & 3)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: VU #600 *When I Needed a Neighbour* (verses 4 & 5)

Scripture Reading: John 21:1-19 (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: *Tend My Sheep*

Choral Offering: *Where Does Compassion Start?*

Words by Shirley Erena Murray. 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, 2019

<https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/blessed-healer-you-transform-lives>

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #598 *When Pain of the World*
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: MV #141 *We Are All One People*

Postlude

Worship Schedule

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
June 1	<i>Pride Sunday</i>	- Affirming Ministry Group

Prayer Cycles

Ministerial

Bridgeway Community Church

Living Skies Regional Council

Maidstone

Saskatoon: Mayfair

Melfort

Lectionary Readings for May 11, 2025

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23 (VU pp. 747-749)

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

Prayers and Solidarity in Response to the Lapu Lapu Day Block Party Attack



Published On: April 27, 2025

The United Church of Canada, with the Pacific Mountain Regional Council, joins with the people of Vancouver and the whole of the country, in shock and deep grief at the violent attack on the Lapu Lapu Day Block Party. To date, nine people have been reported killed, with multiple others injured when an SUV plowed into the crowded celebration. We pray for those who have been killed, for

their families and friends, and for those facing injuries, that they might heal, in both body and mind, from this horrible crime. The United Church prays also for first responders who witnessed this horrific scene, and for strength for investigators as they help the community and country understand what happened in this devastating action and find justice.

We hold in deep concern and solidarity the Filipino-Canadian community as the event was to celebrate Filipino community values and spirit. The Moderator of the United Church, Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne shares her profound sadness and support, "For those of the Filipino community, in Vancouver, our church, and across the country, please know that we are with you with both rage and grief, and will come alongside as you seek to heal and find justice." As The United Church of Canada, we wait in horror to hear whether this was indeed a racially motivated hate crime as it seems and renew our deep commitment to racial justice across this whole land, indeed, across the whole world.

A Heartfelt Thank You to United Church Volunteers



In celebration of National Volunteer Week (April 27 to May 3), Moderator Carmen Lansdowne shares [a message of profound gratitude](#) for the incredible dedication of United Church volunteers. We sing of "God's good news lived out," and you embody that spirit through your selfless service and commitment to our loving community. Join us in recognizing the countless individuals

who share their gifts for the good of all. Thank you for your heart, your joy, and your unwavering support!

[Video still credit: The United Church of Canada]