



FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Swift Current, SK
Sunday, January 3, 2016

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Reading Scripture: Fran Jackson
Pianist: Joan Williamson

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*No one has ever seen God;
it is the Only Begotten,
ever at Abba's side,
who has revealed God to us.
- John 1:18 (The Inclusive Bible)*

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: VU #71 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
(verses 1&2 – please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: We come together as people seeking direction.

**ALL: We come asking for the Holy Spirit
to guide us into God's future.**

ONE: We come with anticipation, at the beginning of a new year.

ALL: We come with thanksgiving, for the gift of the baby Jesus.

ONE: We come with longing, for the presence of God with us.

ALL: We come to praise and worship the Divine.

Worship Schedule

Jan 10	Epiphany Sunday	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jan 17	The Wedding at Cana	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Jan 24	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	- Worship & Music Committee

Care Home Services

Today – January 3rd
2pm at Golden West Manor
3pm at Heritage Towers
Come and join in the singing!

Training for Lay Worship Leaders

Saskatchewan Conference is planning to offer a two year program (7 weekends) that would be open to those interested in becoming lay worship leaders. They are currently planning to begin April 15-17, 2016 and the program will be held in Saskatoon at Queen's House Retreat.

The cost for the two year program, based on the # of people participating will be between \$375 and \$425 per weekend session. There are funds available through First United Church, Chinook Presbytery and Saskatchewan Conference to help cover these costs.

There will be more detailed information available in the bulletin next week. For now, if you are interested and/or have any questions, please talk to Adele Heise (773-0653 or hessa@sasktel.net).

Opening Hymn: VU #36 Angels From the Realms of Glory
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer & Jesus' Prayer

**God of the life in a baby's cry,
God of the galaxies and stars,
profound and simple truth in kindness and love,
mystery beyond understanding:
gather us to yourself.
Open us to worship and wonder,
This day, and forever.**

Amen.

From: Camilla La Rouche, *Worship for All Seasons II, Year C*, page 55.

WORD

Hymn: VU #58 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly *(verses 1 & 2)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #58 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly *(verse 1)*
(please remain seated)

Reading: John 1: 1-18

We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.
May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: Yes, It's Still Christmas

Hymn: VU #55 In the Bleak Midwinter *(verses 1-3)*

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Los Quinchos

Offering

Offertory Hymn: VU #55 In the Bleak Midwinter *(verse 4)*
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

**Take the gifts we offer,
not as a means to rescue others,
but as a means for relationship and for connection,
as a means to build bridges between strangers,
as a means to embody the good news. Amen**

Adapted from: Gord Dunbar, *Gathering*, Pentecost 2 2015, page 40.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #43 Go, Tell It on the Mountain
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: MV #221 I Am Walking a Path of Love

Postlude

Scripture Readings for January 10, 2016 (Epiphany):

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 (VU p. 790 Parts One & Two)

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

*With all your science
can you tell
how it is, and
whence it is,
that light comes into the soul?*

- Henry David Thoreau