



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
November 27, 2016



Advent One

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Reading: Diane Sarson
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aid, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn.

- Henry David Thoreau

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Advent Hymn: Light a Candle (*verse 1 – sung twice*)
- Terry Macham (please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: Awaken us, O God (*arms stretched above head*).

**ALL: We are waiting for someone special,
let us keep watch.** (*look around the room*).

ONE: Prepare us to embark on this journey of faith. (*stamp feet*)

ALL: May hope be within each of us (*hands over heart*)
as we travel this Advent path together (*hands in prayer
position in front of chest, turn to left and right*).

Adapted from: *Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFusion* Advent /Christmas/ Epiphany
2016–2017, page 39.

Worship Schedule

10:30 a.m. Sunday Service

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| December 4 | Advent Two – Peace | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| December 11 | Advent Three – Joy - White Gift Sunday | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| December 18 | Advent Four – Love | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve (7 p.m.) | - Rev. Annette Taylor |
| December 25 | Christmas Sunday | - Rev. Annette Taylor |



Moderator Jordan Cantwell has a new challenge for this year's [Gifts with Vision](#) campaign. She's hoping everyone connected with The United Church of Canada will give a Gift with Vision.

This year's *Gifts with Vision* catalogue offers opportunities to give meaningful gifts to bring hope to people in their community, in Canada, and right around the world.

"We are so thankful for people's generosity in the first five years of Gifts with Vision. This year I challenge everyone to get involved because together we can make a difference," says Moderator Jordan Cantwell. "There are Gifts with Vision to give all year. I've already purchased mine for Giving Tuesday—now I'm hoping our generous people will give from their hearts to make a difference in peoples' lives."

Gifts with Vision supports The United Church of Canada's Mission & Service—supported programs and partners. To order gifts, please visit [Gifts with Vision](#) or call 1-844-715-7969.

RESPONSE

Opening Hymn: VU #2 **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer

Spirit of Hope,
travel with us
during this time of waiting.

As we wait,
help us stay awake and
present to your love.
Help us unlearn ways of harm, and
practice ways of compassion.

Awaken our hearts
to your love, your peace,
your joy and your hope.

Adapted from: *Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFusion* Advent /Christmas/ Epiphany
2016–2017, page 39.

Jesus' Prayer: VU #959 *(please remain seated as we sing)*

WORD

Hymn: VU #7 **Hope is a Star** *(verses 1,2, & 3)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: VU #7 **Hope is a Star** *(verse 4)*
(please remain seated)

Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

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: Staying Awake

Choral Offering: Flying Free
- Don Besig

Minute for Mission: Ministry of Presence

Offering

Offertory Hymn: Here Our Gifts We Offer, God
- Sandra Jenkinson (tune: Good King Wenceslas)
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication:

Holy Mystery, today we dedicate ourselves anew.

Even in our doubt, we promise our faith.

Even in our fear, we promise our courage.

Even in our comfort, we promise our commitment

to seeking justice and peace on earth.

Bless this worship, and this offering,
that they may be a reflection of our hope. Amen.

Adapted from: *SeasonFUSION* Season of Creation, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany
2014-2015.

Celebration of Communion

Chant: MV #202 Bread for the Journey

Closing Hymn: VU #424 **May the God of Hope Go With Us**
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for December 4, 2016:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 (VU 790 Parts 1 & 3)

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

**Statement from the Executive of the General Council of
The United Church of Canada
following recent incidents of hateful graffiti in Ottawa:**

November 19, 2016

As we gathered in Toronto for our fall meeting of the Executive of the General Council, we were horrified to hear about the recent incidents of racist graffiti in Ottawa.

Hateful words and symbols were spray-painted on five buildings in our nation's capital this week, including Parkdale United Church, the Ottawa Muslim Association, two Jewish institutions and a private residence.

The Executive members of The United Church of Canada strongly, and with one voice, denounce these incidents. We stand with anyone who is subjected to any form of racism and discrimination.

We reaffirm our commitment to continue to work for justice and to resist any form of structural oppression; we offer our prayers and support to all the faith groups that have been targeted, for we know that such hateful actions have no place in our Canadian society.

As a church, we commit ourselves again to working for a country of peace and justice for all people, and call on all people of faith and goodwill to take concrete, peaceful actions to support those who have been targeted by hatred and fear.

The Executive of the General Council
The United Church of Canada