



First United Church
 Swift Current, SK
 March 24, 2019



Third Sunday of Lent

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
 Reader: Brenda Gruetzner
 Pianist: Mary Anderson
 Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

“Now, more than ever, the illusions of division threaten our very existence. We all know the truth: more connects us than divides us. But in times of crisis, the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers. We must find a way to look after one another as if we were one single tribe.”

- T'Challa in *Black Panther*

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering Hymn: MV #20 God of Still Waiting
(verses 1 & 4) (please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: Everyone who thirsts, come to the water.
 Even if you have no money, come, buy and eat!
 Come buy wine and milk without any price.

ALL: We are parched and come to be refreshed.
 We are hungry and come to be fed.
 We come, responding to God's call
 to feast and be filled with good things,
 so that we may live as people renewed.

From: Ryan McNally, *Gathering L/E* 2019, page 29.

Worship Schedule

Lenten Movie Series

Mar 31	Lent 4 – Roma	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 7	Lent 5 – Who is My Neighbour? (movie – BlacKkKlansman)	- Rachelle Friesen
Apr 14	Palm Sunday	- Children & Youth
Apr 19	Good Friday	- Rev. Annette Taylor

United Church Condemns Mosque Attacks in New Zealand



The United Church of Canada strongly condemns the horrific attacks by a suspected White nationalist on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand on March 15, 2019.

The people of the United Church are deeply saddened and many are weeping alongside the families and friends of the people who were killed and injured.

The United Church recognizes Islam as a religion of peace, mercy, justice, and compassion and has affirmed that the church wants to journey towards reconciliation, understanding, and cooperation with our Muslim neighbours.

People of faith are invited to join in prayer in responses to these terrible attacks. People are also invited to engage in acts of solidarity with Muslim neighbours, and participate in community vigils to honour the lives of those affected. [Read More](#)

Opening Hymn: VU #121 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
(verses: general, 1st, 3rd & 4th) (please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer and Jesus' Prayer

**Holy Mystery, Ground of our Being,
You call us to come and eat and drink
to be filled with your Spirit of love and hope.**

We come:

**our minds burdened with questions;
our hearts heavy with guilt and worry;
our souls suffering from loss and grief.**

**May we empty ourselves at your table and
make room for your life-giving grace.**

Written by: Annette Taylor.

Lenten Lament – Seeking Right Relations (see back of bulletin)
(Choral Response: MV #78 God Weeps - verse 4)

WORD

Hymn: MV #146 The Kingdom of God (sing 3 times)
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: MV #146 The Kingdom of God (sing twice)
(please remain seated)

Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9

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: Black Panther

Hymn: VU #697 O for a World (verses 1,2 & 5)
(please remain seated)

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Children Deserve to Be Children

Offering

Offertory Hymn: Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands
VU # 537 (please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

**Blessed Healer, you transform lives.
The hungry are fed, the lonely befriended,
And the broken are restored to wholeness.
May these gifts be part of the transformation.
We offer them with humility and hope. Amen.**

From: Laura Turnbull, *Gathering* Lent/Easter 2019, page 35

Choral Offering: Come Find Forgiveness and Love
- Don Besig & Nancy Price

Celebration of Communion

(chant: MV #194 Bread of Life, Feed My Soul)

Closing Hymn: VU #646 We Are Marching (verses 1, 2, 1)
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: MV #214 May God's Sheltering Wings
(sing twice)

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for March 31, 2019

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32 (VU p.759)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3,11b-32

Lenten Lament – Seeking Right Relations

Background

The forty days of Lent are a traditional time of lament, of repentance and of seeking reconciliation and the mending of relationships. During these forty days of Lent, we are invited to lament the deep harm inflicted upon the First Peoples of Canada through the imposition of Western ways and culture, through the Residential Schools, and through continuing stereotypes and racism. In lamenting, we open the path for reconciliation and healing that will bring wholeness and well-being to all the peoples of Canada.

The Lament

Today we continue the journey of lament we make this Lenten season. It is a lament for the past as well as the continuing injustice to the First Peoples of this land. It is a reminder of the need for reconciliation and mending of relationships.

We lament the policies created and implemented to eliminate Indigenous Peoples as distinct peoples and all attempts at assimilation.

We lament the destruction of cultural artifacts and practices that were a foundation for each Indigenous Peoples community.

We lament the traditions and wisdom lost because they could not be passed from generation to generation.

These may be hard things for many of us to name and acknowledge, and yet these actions destroyed Indigenous Peoples: individuals, families and communities. And we are all the poorer.

Choral Response: MV #78 God Weeps (*verse 4*)

Seeking Right Relations (*light the yellow candle*)

We light the yellow candle to honour the people of Treaty Four. We acknowledge, with respect, their history, spirituality, culture and ways of knowing. We recognize our responsibility as signatories to the treaty to live with respect on this land and in peace and friendship with its people.

**We acknowledge the continuing injustice
and commit ourselves to seeking right relations with
all the First Peoples of Canada.**

**May the Creator's wisdom work within us toward mending the
torn tapestry of this land.**