

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Minister: The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Music Director: Naomi Piggott-Suchan

Organist: Paul Suchan

Guest Musicians: Chelsea Mahan, Kelsey Ronn

December 24th, 2024

Christmas Eve

"She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" – Luke 2: 7

As we gather, we are mindful of the fact that we meet on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Treaty Six First Nations and the traditional home of the Métis.

We are grateful for the hospitality we have received as settlers in this place and recommit ourselves to the work of reconciliation and building good relations with the First Peoples of this land.



SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Prelude: Carol Selections

Welcome and Announcements

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Tonight we give special thanks to our Music Director Naomi Piggott-Suchan, Organist Paul Suchan, and the entire St. Andrew's Choir for leading us in our Christmas Eve service. Thanks and blessings to you all.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME AND PROCLAIM HIS WORD

Lighting of the Four Advent Candles – The Suchan Family

Lighting of the Four Advent Candles

Reader 1: It is nearly time; time for the Christ Child to be born into the world.

Reader 2: It is time to know our sins are forgiven; to be assured that God is with us.

Reader 1: Through these Advent Days and nights we have waited...

In Hope (the Hope candle is lit)

Reader 2: In Peace (the Peace candle is lit)

Reader 1: In Joy (the Joy candle is lit)

Reader 2: and in Love (the Love candle is lit), let us pray...

People: Gracious and loving God, this night we will receive from you a precious gift. The greatest gift humanity has ever received. This night we will welcome you in Christ Jesus, born to us a king in lowly manger. Open our hearts to receive this gift, as well as your gifts of grace, mercy, faith, and transformation in His holy name. Amen.

Psalm 98: 1-9

- Mark Behrend

Duet – Gesu Bambino – Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)

Opening Prayer

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Children's Time

- Martha Fergusson

Isaiah 9: 2-7

- George Arthur-Sarpong

Praise:

“On Christmas night all Christians sing”

#162

Luke 1: 68-79

- Jackie Behrend

Praise:

“Once in royal David's city”

#166

Luke 2: 1-5

- Sammy Ngombe

Grace Congregation Medley:

“Away in a Manger/Tsie Tsie Tsie/O Come Let Us Adore”

Luke 2: 6-7

- Bonnie Mahlum

Lighting of the Christ Candle

- Naomi Suchan

(See PWS&D Insert)

Reflection – The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Choir Anthem: In the Bleak Midwinter – Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Doxology (#830) and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below: praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Offertory Prayer

Praise:

“Angels we have heard on high”

#147

Luke 2: 8-14

- Barbara Antwi

Trio – I wonder as I wander – Appalachian Carol, arr. John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)

Closing Prayer

- The Rev. Vasty Ogbe

Luke 2: 15-20

– Iain Ireland

Praise:

“Silent Night”

#154

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Benediction: John 1: 14

– The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli



The offering tonight will go to the St. Andrew's Session Benevolence Fund, which is used to offer assistance to people with urgent financial needs. Special envelopes are available in the pews. If you would like a donation receipt, include your contact information on the envelope.

Please take a candle on your way into the sanctuary this evening. During Silent Night, leaders will come to the pews to share the light of the Christ candle. Please light your candle in the horizontal position and keep it lit vertically. The overhead lights will be dimmed once the light has been shared with all. Please extinguish your candle before leaving your pew at the end of the service.

St. Andrew's would like to extend a special welcome to all members of Grace Congregation – Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Saskatoon. Thank you for joining us. It is wonderful to be in community and fellowship with you throughout the year. Merry Christmas!

The ornaments on the Christmas tree are a visual representation of our annual Advent Appeal. Each ornament represents \$10, which has been donated by you, to aid in supplying necessities to our friends and neighbours through various agencies. The gifts were delivered this week, and you helped to make a joyous Christmas for so many. Thanks be to God!



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE



The end of the year is quickly approaching! Please ensure that all invoices for payment, and any donations are received by the office asap.



The church offices will be closed over the holidays. December 25 – January 1, inclusive.

- ❖ To have donations eligible for a 2024 charitable donation receipt, they must be dated 2024 and received by the office **NO LATER** than January 15.





The Christ Candle

One: We gather to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

All: With each candle we light, we commit ourselves to seeking hope, peace, joy and love.

One: We light the Christ candle to shine into the world, reminding us of the new life promised through Jesus' birth.

(Light the Christ candle)

One: May the warmth and light of Christ comfort all people, bringing courage to the weary and strength to the oppressed.

All: Holy One, by the power of your Spirit, help us to shine your light brightly to the world. Affirm within us the conviction to show hope, peace, joy and love throughout our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Christ is Born!



Hope is possible, even in the face of poverty, injustice and disaster.

The church, through PWS&D, heeds God's call to aid those in need. Together, we are actively shaping a brighter future for our global community, offering assistance in disaster-stricken areas, whether due to conflict or climate extremes, and fostering sustainable pathways out of poverty.

Guided by God's promise of abundant life, we address issues of hunger, poverty, injustice and disaster with compassion. Through our collaborative efforts, we aim to restore human dignity, alleviate suffering and promote community cooperation.

As a reflection of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love, we are striving toward a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember our neighbours near and far. Your support is crucial to the success of this transformative work.

This Christmas, help bring hope, peace, joy and love around the world by supporting PWS&D.

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