

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Minister: The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Music Director: Naomi Piggott-Suchan

Organist: Paul Suchan

December 22nd, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

"He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty." – Luke 1: 53

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.



Prelude: Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ – Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Preparation for Worship:

As the Christ Candle is lit, we invite you to observe a time of quiet reflection prior to our service.

Welcome and Announcements

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Lighting the Candle of Joy
(See PWS&D insert)

- Alicia Monson

Prayer of Adoration

Praise:

"People, look east"

#125

Prayer of Confession: **(Unison)**

Loving God,

Though we have found love in Christ, we are still often a people divided against ourselves and one another. We have not loved as you have loved us. We have been careless with our words, our actions, and our intentions. We have not always been good stewards of our gifts and have ignored the love you call us to share them in. Forgive us, O God, heal us of sin and disunity, and return us to yourself. That in finding you in the love of your Son, we would once again find our true selves.

Assurance of Pardon
(Children come forward)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Introduction and Invitation

Praise: *“A little child the Saviour came”* #516 vs. 1-3

Presentation and Vows

When invited to respond, the congregation will affirm the baptism with the words, **“We do”**.

Apostles' Creed

#539

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Act of Baptizing

Declaration and Welcome

Aaronic Blessing

#619 (sung)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace.

(Children leave for Church School)

Praise: *“My soul gives glory to my God”* #123 vs. 1,2,5



WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Micah 5: 2-5a

Psalms 80: 1-7

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Luke 1: 39-55

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

- Alicia Monson

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Sermon: “Mary”

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: There is no rose – Medieval anonymous, arr. Andrew Smith (b. 1970)

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

Prayers of the People

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Praise: “Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel”

#122

Benediction

A-men, a-men, a - - - men

Postlude: Je vous salue Marie – French traditional

Greeters & Collectors: Christine Meier, Esther Efeme, Sammy Lyonga Ngombe, Prince Lyonga Ngombe

Coffee Hosts: Elizabeth, Sharon, Mary Ann



YOU ARE INVITED to the lower hall following the worship service for refreshments and conversation

A SPECIAL WELCOME is extended to our visitors this morning. Please sign the guest book in the entranceway, or fill out a visitor's envelope found in the pews. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider St.

Andrew's.

CHILDCARE: There is a nursery available in the lower hall.

LARGE PRINT Bibles, bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

CONTACT US: Phone 306-242-0525, Email office@standrews-saskatoon.com, Website: www.standrews-saskatoon.com

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Thursday, 9:00AM-2:00 PM

Announcements

Today we are delighted to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for Stella Everley Kirk and Bennett Leroy Kirk, children of Ian Kirk and Shannon Cenaiko-Kirk.



The Christmas Eve Service is at 7pm. Unless otherwise designated, offerings will go to the Session Benevolence Fund, which is used to offer assistance to people with urgent financial needs.

Financial Update

Hello St. Andrews People. We have so much for which to be thankful. Our building fund has received some generous donations to assist with current renovations. Events like our very successful Charlie Brown Christmas concert are going to support celebratory functions of the church anniversary, and donations to the church operations are going according to forecast.

So that is the good news. Now for the not so good news. Welcome to winter! I say this because clearing of the church parking lot is one of the expenses most difficult to forecast! As of today, it is looking very much like our operational expense prediction of last year will be accurate. I have just updated our budget forecasts. My best estimate means that we will have a year end deficit of about \$6,500. This is so much Better than the \$20,000 deficit we predicted last year. Thanks for your continued support.

Additionally, donations to all of the church missions are down considerably at about 75% of 2023 levels. We all realize that many people are struggling financially. We appreciate any and all gifts. We thank you for your generosity to date and ask that you prayerfully consider, what additional gift, if any, God may be calling you to make before year end and into 2025. We have a growing church - what a wonderful blessing. God Bless each of you. Do not hesitate to contact me with any question you may have. Orlanda Drebit orlandadrebit@hotmail.com

Mini Christmas Bake Sales

At this time of year, most of us look forward to Christmas baking favourites. Some people cannot or no longer bake, while some of us love to bake and have a few extras.

Starting December 1 and going until December 22, some bake sale items may be available for purchase. Stock will vary each week, so grab your favourites when you see them; they may not be back.

For those donating their time and talent:

- Keep volumes small.
- Price your own items (or ask for help), keeping in mind that ingredients have gone up in cost over this past year. Place them in the entranceway.
- Label with any common allergens (wheat/gluten, eggs, nuts, dairy, MSG, cinnamon, mustard, artificial colouring).

For those who may consider purchasing items:

- Bring small bills and coins of various denominations, as there may not be change available. Alternately, we will have the 'tap and go' machine available.
- Items that arrive will be in the entranceway before the service and moved to the lower hall after.

This year, the proceeds will go to Presbyterians Sharing



Dear Friends, let's **walk to Bethlehem** together during Advent and ponder on the scripture readings each day as we walk or exercise in some form. Keep track and email me at pastoralcare nurse@standrews-saskatoon.ca OR text/ phone me at 306-229-7846 with weekly mileage or steps. Can we collectively get to Bethlehem in time to celebrate the Christ Child? Let's do it!! There are paper handouts in the Narthex as well as the Advent Walk as attached.



OPERATION SANDWICHES: The Outreach Committee cannot provide sandwiches to SNCM without your assistance, whether it is helping us make the sandwiches at our Sandwich Making Parties on the 4th Sunday of each month, or simply providing the funds needed to purchase ingredients (~\$150/session). Both are equally important.

In the past (pre-Covid), we were able to do this twice a month, which is something that we would like to

be able to afford to do once again. If you would like to help via donation, you can do so through the church website, by e-transfer, or by your regular offering envelope. To make sure that the donation goes to the right place, please make sure that 'Operation Sandwiches' shows up somewhere in the text. Or, join on the 4th Sunday. **That's today!**

Could you give us 2 Sundays per year? The Board of Managers needs help in opening and closing the church. During the last couple of years, this responsibility has fallen on the shoulders of a very small group of people. All it involves is arriving a bit early and leaving a bit late! Please contact Sharon Wiseman (306) 242-4779 if you are willing to help.



WARM CLOTHING AND BLANKET DRIVE

Outreach and Pastoral Care are gathering and distributing donations of new and gently used blankets, winter jackets, sweaters, boots, socks, mitts, scarves and toques for Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. New underwear and stockings would also be greatly appreciated. If you have anything that you wish to donate, please drop it off in the barrel at the back of the church. The bin will be available all this fall and winter.



Thank you for your support!



2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available on the entranceway table. In each box there is a designated envelope that enables you to help offset the cost of the offering envelopes, which is \$12.29. If you would like to have your own box of envelopes, fill out the information on a Visitor's Envelope located in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or contact the church office. ***If you would prefer to make pre-authorized remittances, please fill out a blue PAR authorization form (found on the entranceway table), attach a void cheque, and place it in the offering plate.***

The church offices will be closed December 25th, 2024 to January 1st, 2025, inclusive

Any donations that you wish to have included on your 2024 charitable donation receipt **MUST** be received no later than January 15th, 2025, and be dated 2024.

Please submit all invoices for payment in 2024 to the church office asap.

Prayer Requests: Email Margaret Wilson at: ma.wilson@shaw.ca More information on Pastoral Care Bulletin Board.

AVAILABLE ON THE ENTRANCEWAY TABLE:

- * Copies of the fall issue of the Presbyterian Connection
- * Contact Information Forms
- * The latest edition of "Saints Alive!", the newsletter
- * Annual Report & Financial Statements

Missed out on a worship service?

If you are looking for a service you missed, or want to see information in a previous bulletin, simply follow these steps:

- 1) Visit standrews-saskatoon.com
- 2) Scroll down just below this week's video until you see the date of the service you are looking for and click on it
- 3) You can now click the video box to watch the service and the "(date)_bulletin" to see the bulletin



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Love

One: As we prepare for Christ's coming, we remember that Christ modelled love by seeking justice for those on the margins.

All: We come with a desire to love everyone, even when it's hard.

One: We light the fourth candle of Advent, a symbol of God's love, which knows no boundaries.

(Light the candle of love)

One: May the light of this candle inspire us to act towards our neighbours near and far in loving and justice-seeking ways.

All: Holy One, we love because You first loved us. By the power of your Spirit, commit us to love in action in service of our neighbours. Affirm within us a dedication to show your love to the world, in both word and deed. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



“My Life Has Changed”

Santos Amali, a 66-year-old man from Northern Ghana encountered significant challenges due to physical impairment caused by polio.



Living in the Bugri community, he faced severe stigma and hardship. Isolated by his community, Santos was unable to meet his and his family's basic needs.

He was asked to participate in the Community-Based Rehabilitation program of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. He received training in crop and livestock production, along with improved seeds and livestock breeds. As a result, he was able to become a successful farmer, producing a variety of crops and raising sheep.

“My life has changed, and I owe the Community-based Rehabilitation program and PWS&D a great deal of gratitude for turning my life around through timely interventions. I didn't have enough food and money to live on. Today, the story is different as I have enough from my farming activities,” he shared.

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to ensure everyone is able to live an abundant life.

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MISSION MOMENT **Sunday, December 22**

Somalia has been devastated by drought for the last six years. Among the many pushed to the brink of starvation is Hawa Ahmed, a resilient mother of eight. When the lack of water and food made the situation increasingly dire, Hawa made the courageous decision to relocate her family for the chance at a better life. Her new surroundings came with a harsh reality: as a displaced person, she was stripped of her possessions and support system, leaving her feeling alone and anxious for a solution. Things changed when Hawa joined a program supported by PWS&D that provided families with emergency cash. With this financial support, Hawa was able to purchase food and ensure access to clean drinking water for her children.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 22 (4th Sunday of Advent) As we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, we pray for the staff at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre as they offer generous hospitality to all who come seeking rest and renewal.

Monday, December 23 We give thanks for ministries that demonstrate Christ's love and compassion by offering nourishment and fellowship through Christmas day dinners.

Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) We pray that our lives may echo the refrain of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to all people."

Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day) Loving God, we thank you for the gift of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ who brings reconciliation. May we know you more clearly and serve you more faithfully as we receive the Christ Child again.

Thursday, December 26 We pray for the safety of all who are travelling today.

Friday, December 27 We pray for military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families. May their presence be a constant reminder of God's presence, especially at those times when people feel estranged from home and family.

Saturday, December 28 We pray for those recovering from illness or injury, that they will experience God's love and healing touch through the love of family and friends.