

# ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

## ***THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP***

Minister: The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Guest Preacher: Orlanda Drebit

Music Director: Naomi Piggott-Suchan

Organist: Paul Suchan

Guest Musician: Brenda Moats

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let them be afraid." – John 14: 27*

*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: What Child is This? – Traditional

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

- Orlanda Drebit

## **WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

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

- David & Daniel Tabien

Prayer of Adoration (Responsively)

One: A voice in the wilderness cries out:

**Many: Prepare the way of the Lord!**

One: Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill be made low.

**Many: The crooked shall be made straight, and rough places, smooth.**

One: A voice in the wilderness cries out:

**Many: All people shall see the salvation of God!**

One: Lift up your hearts in expectation!

**Many: We will lift up our praise to the One who is coming into the world once more.**

**Praise:**

***“There’s a voice in the wilderness calling”***

**#128**

Prayer of Confession: **(Unison)**

**God of peace and promise,  
you are the giver of life, the potter who created us.  
You love us as we come to you with all our flaws.  
When we wander away your Holy Spirit calls us back.  
The journey to the manger is long,  
you are the one who supplies all things for the journey.  
Refresh us in this time of worship,  
and reignite our desire to serve you each and every day.  
Glory, honour and praise be yours now and always,  
one God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.  
Merciful God, in your gracious presence  
we confess our sins and the sins of this world.**

Assurance of Pardon

*(Children come forward)*

Children’s Time

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.**

**Praise:**

***“O little town of Bethlehem”***

**#165**

*(Children leave for Church School)*

### **WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Luke 1: 68-79

- Daniel Tabien

Psalm 139: 1-18 Refrain 1

Romans 8: 35-39

- David Tabien

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Sermon: “A Broken Nativity Scene”

- Orlanda Drebit

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: Prepare the Way, O Zion – Sondra K. Tucker

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:**

**“Spirit, Spirit of gentleness”**

**#399**

Benediction

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

Postlude: O Come All Ye Faithful – Traditional

Greeters & Collectors: Terry & Anne Drover, Sharon Wiseman, Angie Smibert

Coffee Hosts: Laura & Charles Roy



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](mailto:office@standrews-saskatoon.com), Website: [www.standrews-saskatoon.com](http://www.standrews-saskatoon.com)

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

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## Announcements

Check your in-box for the latest copy of "**SAINTS ALIVE!**", St. Andrew's newsletter. There are paper copies available on the entranceway table this morning. Extra copies are available for newcomers, visitors, or for regulars to pass along. With the postal strike, we are unable to mail out copies, so if you will be seeing anyone that you know would like a copy, please deliver for us.



### 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](mailto:orlandadrebit@hotmail.com)

Poinsettias! Poinsettias! Poinsettias! The sanctuary looks beautiful graced in the splendor of red and white poinsettias. Thank you to everyone who purchased a poinsettia for the sanctuary, your home, and for family and friends. The Anniversary Committee really appreciates all of your support. Thank you very much. Merry Christmas!!



Heads up! Zion & St. A's Youth Group, Sunday December 15th, 5:30-8:30 pm  
Escape to Bethlehem with Alicia Monson VST student leading. Come enjoy interactive journey to Bethlehem. Confirm with Martha 306 270 2378

### 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 [pastoralcarenurse@standrews-saskatoon.ca](mailto:pastoralcarenurse@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.

There will be a **Memory and Light Service** at 7:00 pm at the church on December 11, 2024 for families and friends of loved ones who have passed away. It is our hope that the scripture readings, sermonette, music and lighting of candles will bring comfort and peace to all as we remember those whom we cherish forever.

A reception will take place in the lower hall following the service. All are welcome.



**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.



**We are Expecting!** - Four new babies at St. Andrew's in our anniversary year! We plan to honor them with a Baby Shower after Church during our regular Coffee Hour on December 15, 2024. You may donate (cash, debit, or credit) at the Shower to support the purchase of a new baby play pen and rocking chair for our nursery, and some individual baby gifts. Please save a moment on that day to take a peek at the renovated nursery. For further information, contact Heather Shouse, 705 493-2724 (call or text).

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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, inclusive

Any donations that you wish to have included on your 2024 charitable donation receipt **MUST** be received no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:ma.wilson@shaw.ca) More information on Pastoral Care Bulletin Board.

Advent is right around the corner and with it, the **Outreach Committee's Advent Appeal.**

We have tried to set up the appeal so that it is as easy as possible to take part, both for those who worship with us in person and for those who worship with us online.

For anyone worshipping with us online, you will find a list of items needed by the various downtown agencies, along with a suggested value that each item might cost, in this week's on-line bulletin. Simply select the agency that you would like to support, find an item that you would like to provide to that agency, and make your donation, either by e-transfer, or by using the church's website. Please indicate that the donation is part of the Advent Appeal, and note which agency you are supporting. Our bookkeeper will

then make sure that your donation gets to where it needs to go. For every \$10 donated, we will add an ornament to our Advent Tree.

For those worshipping in person, there are three steps. The first step is selecting an ornament. These can be found in the entryway of the church.

As always, you can choose the ornament by color, shape, or size, but the best way might be to just read what is on the tags. You then take the ornament home and complete whatever is on the tag. Once it is complete, peel the backing off of the tag and place it on the gift that you have purchased or donated, OR, if it a gift of talent, (like mine), place it on the ornament. The final step is to bring the gift AND the ornament back to the church, place the gift under the tree, and the ornament on the tree. All of the returned ornaments will provide a visual progress report of this year's Appeal.

We will officially start receiving gifts next week and the appeal will proceed until December 15 after which we will distribute the gifts to the agencies. If you would like to help us with this, please let us know. It really is an amazing experience.

In closing, I would just like to say that the agencies in our appeal have been on the frontline when it comes to providing care and support for the homeless, the hungry, and the vulnerable here in Saskatoon. We feel that our appeal provides an opportunity to do what we can to share the love of God through our support of their programs. Thank you very much, and we hope that you have fun with the appeal.

We are: Al Ireland, Donna Fenton, Linda Dietz, and Rachel Giesbrecht.

## **ADVENT WISH LISTS**

### **Friendship Inn**

If you are going to donate food items, and want us to deliver them, please bring the items in on the last Sunday (Dec 15<sup>th</sup>) so that they can be delivered as soon as possible

- Eggs
- Potatoes
- Bread and buns
- Coffee (ground or beans)
- oatmeal
- fresh fruit and vegetables
- Vanilla
- Dried seasonings: Bay leaf, Garlic Plus, pepper, parsley, lemon pepper, dill, thyme, rosemary, sage, cumin and garam masala
- Non-stick cooking spray, or canola oil

### **Personal Items**

- Diapers, Pull-ups and wipes \$20-\$40
- Baby formula \$20-\$60
- Socks \$5-\$20
- Tooth brushes & paste \$5-\$25
- Shampoo & conditioner \$5-\$10
- Deodorant \$2-\$10
- Razors \$2-\$10

### **Egadz**

#### Hygiene

- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste \$5-\$25
- Shampoo, Conditioner \$5-\$10
- Deodorant, Disposable Razors \$2-\$10

#### School Supplies

- Pens, Pencils and Erasers, Pencil Cases \$2-\$10
- Looseleaf \$10-\$20

• Calculators, Geometry Sets, Rulers, etc.	\$5-\$50
• Markers, Pencil Crayons, etc.	\$5-\$15
<b>Bed and Bath</b>	
• Quilts and Duvets	>\$50
• Sheets and Pillows	>\$30
• Towels	\$10-\$30
• Sleeping Bags	\$25-\$60
• Alarm Clocks	\$5-\$25
<b>Babies and Children</b>	
• Baby and Toddler Clothing	\$5-\$30
• Strollers	\$60-\$200
• New Car Seats	\$70-\$200
• Baby Formula and Bottles (unused and unopened)	\$20-\$60
• Disposable Diapers	\$20-\$40
• Toys and Games	\$5-\$50
• Quilts and Blankets	\$5-\$30
<b>Clothing</b>	
• Youth- and Teen-appropriate Clothing (jeans, t-shirts, hoodies, etc.)	>\$20
• Winter Jackets, Ski-Pants	>\$20
• Gloves, Mitts, and Headbands	\$5-\$30
• Socks	\$5-\$15
• Shoes, and Boots	\$20-\$40
• New Underwear	\$10-\$20
<b>Sport/Recreation/Crafts</b>	
• Beads and Beading Supplies	\$5-\$15
• Sleeping Bags	\$30-\$60
• Youth- and Child-appropriate DVD Movies	\$5-\$15
• Paint and Paint Accessories	\$1-\$10

### **Interval House**

#### **ALL ITEMS BELOW SHOULD BE NEW OR VERY GENTLY USED ITEMS**

• Socks and underwear	\$5-\$20
• Nail files/Clippers	\$5
• Winter Boots	\$20-\$50
• Hats/Toques/Mitts/Gloves	\$5-\$10
• Cell phone chargers	\$5-\$20
• House Coats	\$15-\$30
• Children's clothing (all sizes, boys and girls)	\$5-\$50
• Tupperware containers	\$5-\$30
• Pencil crayons/markers	\$5-\$15
• Paints/brushes/general art supplies	\$5-\$10
• Women's sweatpants (all sizes)	\$5-\$20
• Shampoo/Conditioner/Bodywash	\$5-\$10
• Pajamas for women and children	\$10-\$20
• Lip balm	\$3-\$5
• Large drinking glasses	\$5
• Nightlights	\$3-\$10
• Large bath towels	\$15-\$50
• Bathroom loofahs	\$5-\$10

- Movie passes \$10-\$50
- Women's and children's socks (all sizes) \$5-\$15
- Slippers (women and children's) \$5-\$30
- Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Superstore, Co-op, Gas Cards) \$10-\$100
- Inside and outside play toys (no aggressive toys) \$5-\$50
- New books (all ages) \$5-\$30
- Assorted women's running shoes (size 5-10, most commonly 7, 8, 9) \$20-\$100

### **Haven Family Connections**

#### Gift Cards

- Grocery store gift cards \$20-\$100
- Gift cards/certificates for children's outings and events.
  - Bowling, minigolf, swimming, movies and kid's play villages \$20-\$50
- Co-op \$20-\$100
- McDonald's \$10-\$50
- Tim Horton's \$20-\$50
- Canadian Tire \$20-\$50
- Home Sense \$20-\$50
- Fuddruckers/RUCKERS \$20-\$50

#### Clothing items

- New or gently used children's clothing from birth to 12 years) \$10-\$100

### **Elizabeth Fry Society**

Elizabeth Fry is hoping to provide small Christmas gifts to women and gender diverse people who are incarcerated. Some ideas for gifts are in the following list, but don't feel limited by them. If there is some small item that you feel is appropriate, please go ahead.

- Fuzzy socks \$5-\$15
- Lip balm \$5-\$10
- Calendar (no coils) \$15-\$20
- Notebook (no coils) \$5-\$10
- Chocolate bars (peanut free) \$5-\$10
- Candy canes \$5-\$10
- Granola bars (peanut free) \$5-\$10
- Hot chocolate (individual packets) \$5-\$10
- Housecoats \$15-\$30
- Feminine Hygiene Products

\*If you would like to do something on a continuing basis, Elizabeth Fry is constantly in need of feminine hygiene products. You can donate these items during Advent, but if you feel that you can supply them at other times of the year please contact someone on the Outreach committee and we will either drop them off for you, or will put you in touch with someone at Elizabeth Fry who would be more than happy to take them off your hands.

### **YWCA Crisis Center**

- Towels and face cloths \$10-\$30
- New Shampoo/Conditioner/Bodywash \$5-\$10
- Feminine Hygiene Products \$10-\$30
- Pajamas (new) for women and children \$10-\$20
- New socks for women and children \$5-\$15
- Disposable diapers (sizes 4-6) \$10-\$40



- new swim suits for women and children \$10-\$40
- Combs and brushes \$5-\$10
- Disposable razors \$2-\$10
- Small toys for children \$5-\$20
- Baby blankets \$5-\$10

### **SNCM**

- NEW Long underwear (all sizes) \$5-\$20
- NEW Tights for women (all sizes) \$5-\$15
- Warm clothing
  - Parkas, sweaters, boots, snowpants, shoes etc. \$0-\$50
  - Shirts, pants \$0-\$30
- Gloves, Mitts. \$0-\$30

*If you are donating mitts or gloves, please drop them off at the church before December 11, so that they can be handed out as part of their Christmas celebrations)*

### **Carter House**

Carter House is a newly established agency that provides a holistic approach to supporting families dealing with trauma and substance abuse. It provides a safe healing environment where families and individual can work towards recovery. While donations are greatly appreciated, tax receipts cannot be provided as they are privately run. For more information, please talk to Martha Fergusson.

- Gift Cards for hygiene products (Walmart, Dollarama) \$10-\$50
- Movie Tickets (Cineplex) \$10-\$50
- Museum Admission (WDM, WonderHub) \$10-\$50
- Amazon or McNally Gift Cards \$10-\$100
- Books for our collection (new or gently used) \$0-\$50
- New books to gift at graduation \$10-\$50
- Board Games (for all ages, from children to adults) \$10-\$60
- Toys and Building Kits (Lego, Duplo) \$30-\$100

Group Contributions (e.g., book clubs, community groups):

- Create 15 homemade infinity scarves (neutral colors blue, beige, grey))
- Create 15 adult-sized crochet scarves ( neutral colours blue, beige, grey)
- Create square blankets
- 15 boxes of chocolates (such as Purdy's)
- Craft sets (for kids' activities)

### **The Amazing Stuff**

- Set the table during Lent Priceless!
- Make your bed without (too much) complaining ""
- Be especially nice to your sister/brother ""
- Shovel the walk after it snows OR sweep the walk if it doesn't ""
- Keep your room tidy (my wife's personal favourite) ""
- Do you know someone who is isolated? Give them a call! ""
- Invite someone to take part in Kidz Klub ""
- Invite someone to participate in our on-line service ""
- Surprise your mom and clean up her room. ""
- Be especially nice to everyone around you during Advent. ""
- Rake the leaves in your yard?? (Before it snows works best)

**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](http://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



## Second Sunday in Advent

# Peace

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**One:** In a world too often divided, we gather to embrace the gift of peace.

**All:** We come with hearts open to reconciliation and understanding.

**One:** We light the second candle of Advent, a symbol of God's peace in a troubled world.

*(Light the candle of peace)*

**One:** May the light of this candle guide us as we seek to fulfill our calling as peacemakers.

**All:** Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to standing against injustice in our communities and the world. Affirm within us a dedication to foster your peace.  
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



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# Praying for Peace in Gaza

The war in Gaza has left tens of thousands injured or dead and many more people facing severe hunger. Aid efforts are hindered by ongoing challenges, including limited access and mobility, high costs for goods, and challenges in moving them.



PWS&D is responding through ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Local partners have established clinics to provide health services. Since the start of the conflict, churches are being used as distribution points to get ready-to-eat meals to people in need. In southern Gaza, where most people have sought refuge, food assistance is being distributed. Psychological support, especially for children, is being provided in refugee camps.

We echo the words shared by the ACT Alliance, "Gaza's urgent need for peace and humanitarian support remains a top priority. Let us unite for justice and access to aid for those suffering."

Join us in praying and advocating for an end to the violence, enabling all to live in safety and dignity.

**This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to help provide food, shelter and mental health support for people in crisis.**

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# MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, December 8

In Ghana, 12-year-old Abigail Awini became physically challenged shortly after birth, which left her unable to walk. Abigail's father died when she was just four years old, and shortly thereafter, her mother left. Abigail's grandmother, a poor farmer, became her caregiver. During a community survey, Abigail was registered for support from PWS&D's partner, the Garu Centre. With their



advice, her grandmother enrolled her in school. Unable to move independently, Abigail's grandmother carried her on her back daily until Abigail got too big and had to drop out of school. However, the project supported Abigail with a tricycle to enhance her mobility. "The life of my granddaughter has changed," shares her grandmother. Abigail found independence and was able to resume her schooling.

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## DAILY PRAYERS

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**Sunday, December 8 (2nd Sunday of Advent)** We pray for those who grieve the death of someone they love—whose presence they miss with an ache too deep for words. Help us not to fear our grief, for it is a sign of how much we loved the one who now rejoices with the saints in God's presence.

**Monday, December 9** We pray for Knox College students as they complete the Fall semester and journey through this Advent season to Christmas, for rest and renewal in time spent with family and friends.

**Tuesday, December 10 (Human Rights Day of Prayer)** We give thanks that women leaders in Nicaragua are receiving training in small business development with PWS&D support and are becoming better able to meet their families' needs.

**Wednesday, December 11** We pray for people who are experiencing challenges conceiving or adopting children.

**Thursday, December 12** We pray for the Continuing Education Grants Committee which meets this month and for grant recipients as they use their learning to enrich the ministries.

**Friday, December 13** We pray for the proposed new pathway to ordained ministry for prospective Indigenous ministry students, which will help heal the relationship between Indigenous people, the church and country.

**Saturday, December 14** As people gather with families and friends during the Christmas season, we pray for those who are experiencing loneliness.