

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Minister: The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Music Director: Naomi Piggott-Suchan

Organist: Paul Suchan

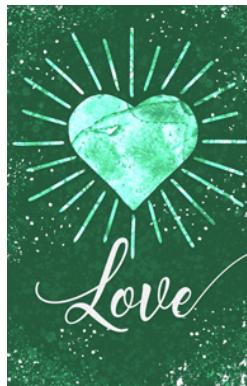
December 18th, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child, and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." – Isaiah 7: 14

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: Prelude on "The Angel Gabriel" – Gordon Phillips

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

- Rehema Nyekanyeka

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession: (**Unison**)

Lord of love,

We confess we sometimes find your love daunting.

**You called Joseph to honour his love for Mary,
even when custom called him to break his engagement.**

We confess custom has a hold on us, too,

and challenging expectations for love's sake makes us nervous.
You call us to love our neighbour,
but we resist your call if our neighbours annoy us.
You call us to love our enemies, too,
but that seems impossible in these contentious times.
Forgive us for loving only in the safest situations.
Dare us to love as Jesus loved so he will be born again in us.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev Roberto: Christ is coming. Christ is here! Let us sing a song of cheer.

Congregation is invited to sing one verse of each Carol listed below while remaining seated.

Carol: Joy to the World # 153 verse 1

Readers: Rehema, Grace & David

Symbols: The Earth and The Star

Carol: Silent night, Holy night #154 verse 1

Reader: **Grace**

Symbols: The rainbow and the angel

Carol: Angels we have heard on High #147 verse 1

Reader: **Bonnie**

Symbols: Shepherd's crook and a sheep

Carol: We Three Kings # 173 verse 1

Reader: **Daniel**

Symbols: Joseph's coat and Wise men's gifts

Carol: "The first Nowell" # 136 verse 1

Reader: **David**

Symbols: Rose and the Cross

Carol: "Go tell it on the mountain" # 133 verse 1

Reader: **Rehema**

Symbols: The burning bush and the alpha-omega sign

Carol: "Away in a manger" #149

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.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

(Children return to pews)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19 (Refrain 1)

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-25

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

"Joseph's Call"

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: In dulci jubilo – J.S Bach

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

Leader: Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Benediction

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

Postlude: Christmas Time is Here – Vince Garaldi

Lock Up:

Shirley Fourney



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. HEADSETS with earphones and radio receivers (101.1fm) are available to those who require hearing assistance.

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

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

PARKING: There is courtesy parking in the Delta's underground parkade on Sunday mornings (for those who have St. Andrew's parking stickers).

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



We are very happy to be meeting in person again! Face masks are required within the church building. Sanitizer is available at several locations in the church, and social distancing is encouraged. Live streaming is available on the website, www.standrews-saskatoon.com for those who are worshipping from home.

As the Year ends, the Thermometer is on the Rise---

The thermometer in the entranceway has been updated to reflect the state of finances to the end of November. The General Fund sits at 94% of the proposed budget and funds raised to meet the ambitious Presbyterians Sharing goal are at 80%. Thank you for all offerings, as you contemplate the remainder of the year and your financial contributions for next year.

In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission made 94 Calls to Action; this week we are reminded of Call to Action #10.

10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles: i. Providing sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation. ii. Improving education attainment levels and success rates. iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula. iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses. v. Enabling parental and community responsibility, control, and accountability, similar to what parents enjoy in public school systems. vi. Enabling parents to fully participate in the education of their children. vii. Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.



'Tis the season-- for baking

This Sunday is the last day of the mini bake sale that began on the first Sunday of Advent. Please check out the table in the entranceway for this week's offerings of baking, jams and jellies. All proceeds go to the General Fund. Thank you to all who have provided and purchased the assortment of items.

The Advent Walk to Bethlehem continues and you can pick up a copy of the scripture readings and walking log in the narthex on the back table or look it up in your Saints Alive Newsletter. Please let Laura, Pastoral Care Nurse know if you are walking, jogging, swimming, riding a stationary bike or whatever you are doing so we can tally the kilometres altogether. Call 306-229-7846 for information.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve Worship will begin at 7pm. Come in person, or watch from home. Live streamed, and available later on YouTube.



2023 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. 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.***

AVAILABLE ON THE ENTRANCEWAY TABLE:

- ✧ These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith, Jan/Feb/Mar Suggested donation: \$3.00
- ✧ Copies of the winter issue of the Presbyterian Connection
- ✧ Contact Information Forms
- ✧ The latest edition of "Saints Alive", the newsletter



- ❖ 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 23 – January 2, inclusive.
- ❖ To have donations eligible for a 2022 charitable donation receipt, they must be dated 2022 and received by the office **NO LATER** than January 15.

ADVENT APPEAL

Today marks the official end of Outreach's Advent Appeal. This is so that we time to distribute the gifts before Christmas. We would like to thank everyone for their generous giving during the Advent season. Our hybrid appeal went well, with a wonderful pile of gifts showing up under the tree, and some very generous donations coming in to help support the work of the downtown agencies. Gifts brought in after today are still more than welcome, but may not make it to the agency in time for Christmas. Thank you once again for your support.

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

*Written by the Rev. Mavis Currie,
Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ont.*

Reader 1: We are people of love.

Reader 2: God has loved us so much that God has chosen to come
as Immanuel, the God who is with us.

People: We are free to love others, because God first loved us.

Reader 1: The fourth candle of Advent invites us to reflect God's love
in our lives.

Reader 2: We light this candle so that we can see who we are called
to love today.

(Light the candle of love)

Reader 1: Let us pray:

**People: Holy One, help us to know
we are deeply loved and to
share that same unconditional
love with others. May our lives
reflect the warmth and wonder
of this flame. Make your church
a place of love and acceptance
in our community. Amen.**

Sing verse 4 of #119 Hope is a star



Improving Health Across Generations in Guatemala

For eight years, Blanca Juárez Tomas has participated in Flor de Tuichmad'il—a women's collective dedicated to promoting health and nutrition among her community in Guatemala. Blanca shares how being involved in this group has allowed her to support her own well-being and that of the next two generations in her family.

"Before I became part of the women's group Flor de Tuichmad'il...my life was very different. I didn't give as much importance to nutrition for both me and my family. The foods we consumed did not have sources of protein, and we did not take into account the importance of properly washing the food that we ate, which often led to illness.

When I became part of the AMMID association, I learned which foods contain protein and the importance of hygiene at home.

Now, my family is healthier, and I am teaching my children to put these things into practice with my grandchildren so that they can enjoy good health."

This Advent season, faithfully respond to help empower Indigenous women in Guatemala as they lead their communities toward a healthy future.

In Guatemala, PWS&D supports the work of the Maya-Mam Indigenous Association for Development (AMMID).

WeRespond.ca





Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, Cyclical PCC supports many important outreach ministries in Canada. One such ministry is the Presbytery of Montreal's Communauté Rivière des Prairies, a new worshipping community in the city's east end. Rivière des Prairies embraces multilingualism in their church services and children's programming, providing an open and welcoming space for newcomers to Canada. Over five different languages and dialects are used by the ministry to connect with newcomers, both in the church family and in the wider community.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 18 (Fourth Sunday of Advent) We pray that the love we know in Christ will nourish and nurture our love until we conform to the pattern of Christ's life.

Monday, December 19 We pray for church planting initiatives in the church.

Tuesday, December 20 We pray for refugees who have been displaced by war and famine.

Wednesday, December 21 We pray that LGBTQI2+ people whose families have rejected them will feel God's comforting presence as they find love and support in their chosen families.

Thursday, December 22 We pray for those who are prayerfully discerning a call to join God's mission around the world, to walk with, serve and learn from international partners.

Friday, December 23 Christ who was born for us, help us to know you, worship you, serve you and be transformed by you.

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) Christ was born as one of us and, in him, God shows us how much the world is loved. We pray that God's love blesses and fills the world.