

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 24th, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent

"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

– Luke 1: 38

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: Noel étranger – Louis-Claude D'Aquin (1694-1772)

Preparation for Worship: 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 Peace

- Dewald Schlebusch & Christél Jordaan

Prayer of Adoration

Praise:

"Long ago, prophets knew"

#121

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

**God of mystery and mercy,
You came to offer us love,
but we confess we can be stubborn and selfish in the ways we live.
You came to reconcile all people,
but we often nurse grudges and resist repairing relationships .
Forgive who we have been,
amend who we are,
and direct who we shall be,
through Jesus Christ who reaches out to us
from the manger and the cross. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

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.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Praise: *"To a maid whose name was Mary"* **#130**

(Children leave for Church School in the lower hall)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

- Jan Rodda

Psalms 89: 1-4, 19-26 (Refrain 2)

Romans 16: 25-27

Luke 1: 26--38

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

"Let it Be"

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: Gabriel to Mary Came – 14th Century Irish

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

Response: Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Praise: *"Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel"* **#122**

Sung Benediction Oh Come, oh come, Emmanuel #122

**Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel**

Postlude: Noel VI – Louis-Claude D'Aquin

Lock up:

Estelle Griffiths

Coffee Hosts:

Dewald Schlebusch & Christél Jordaan



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

From Pastoral Care Committee: As I write this note on Dec. 21, I want to thank eight (8) participants plus one pet named Bailey for their Adventure Pilgrimage from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Collectively, we have made it through difficult and weary days as we can try to imagine what it might have been like for Mary and Joseph. However, this last week is yet to be included in the final tally. Let us all adore him at the manger scene. Merry Christmas!

SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS

The Poinsettias have provided much color and beauty to the sanctuary throughout the Advent Season. Thank you very much for your support! If you would like to enjoy your "sanctuary poinsettia" at home during the dark month of January, they will be available for pick-up after church on Dec. 31. If you do not want your poinsettia they will be distributed to others or discarded during the following week. Contact Jan Rodda for information.



2024 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.***

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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

These Days – the company that delivered "These Days" to us has closed, and we are no longer able to get the daily devotional. We looked for other Canadian companies that might be a distributor, but were not successful. We know many of you enjoyed "These Days", and we apologize for the disappointment.



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 22 – January 2, inclusive.
- ❖ To have donations eligible for a 2023 charitable donation receipt, they must be received by the office **NO LATER** than January 15, and dated 2023.

AVAILABLE ON THE ENTRANCEWAY TABLE:

- ✳ Copies of the winter issue of the Presbyterian Connection
- ✳ Contact Information Forms
- ✳ The latest edition of “*Saints Alive*”, the newsletter

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 #53.

National Council for Reconciliation 53. We call upon the Parliament of Canada, in consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to enact legislation to establish a National Council for Reconciliation. The legislation would establish the council as an independent, national, oversight body with membership jointly appointed by the Government of Canada and national Aboriginal organizations, and consisting of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members. Its mandate would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- i. Monitor, evaluate, and report annually to Parliament and the people of Canada on the Government of Canada’s post-apology progress on reconciliation to ensure that government accountability for reconciling the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown is maintained in the coming years.
- ii. Monitor, evaluate, and report to Parliament and the people of Canada on reconciliation progress across all levels and sectors of Canadian society, including the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action.
- iii. Develop and implement a multi-year National Action Plan for Reconciliation, which includes research and policy development, public education programs, and resources.
- iv. Promote public dialogue, public/private partnerships, and public initiatives for reconciliation.

ADVENT APPEAL

Thank you for your support of this year’s Advent Appeal. Everyone has been very generous with their donations. The gifts are piled high around the tree, and we have been receiving a lot of monetary donations. Thank you. The committee wishes you a Merry Christmas.

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

Voice 1: The prophets call and the psalmists sing to announce that God is love.

Voice 2: "For the mountain may depart and the hills may be moved, but my steadfast love shall never depart from you...and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord who has compassion on you." *(Isaiah 54)*

"Give thanks to the LORD, who is good...give thanks to the Lord of lords, whose steadfast love endures forever." *(Psalm 136)*

Voice 1: From the mystery of God's love came our creation and we are nurtured daily by it. The power of God's love is transformative; because we have received God's love, we cannot remain the same. Love means seeking the best for others. Love is compassion for all creation. Love speaks the truth with kindness. Love is the way of seeing others as God sees them.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: **Jesus Christ is the love of God come into the world.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: **We light this candle to burn for love.**
(while lighting the candle of love)

Sing verse 4 of #119 Hope is a star



Puskar's Journey to Health

In Nepal, 10-year-old Puskar Bhandari lives with his family. Puskar had wounds on his body which his family initially ignored. However, as the wounds spread, his grandfather took him to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with leprosy.



Puskar was later referred to Shining Hospital for treatment. He was provided with medication and treatment, and his grandfather received information about his grandson's condition. Unfortunately, after some time home with the new medicines, Puskar experienced a reaction and had to be readmitted to the hospital.

After his condition stabilized, he was discharged and now only visits the hospital for routine check-ups. Despite his health condition, Puskar aspires to continue his studies and to become a good cricket player.

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to love our neighbours. PWS&D and our partners show this love by working to provide healthy futures for all.

Through Presbyterians Sharing we shine Christ's light in Canada and around the world. We are there when a prisoner in Malawi discovers Christ's love through Bible study, and when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We are there when a congregation adapts to meet community needs in new ways and when a theological student in Canada, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana or Beirut graduates, ready to serve God. We are there when a child receives a healthy snack and after-school support from an inner-city ministry, and when a refugee claimant needs a friend. We are also there for one another as we pray, serve and share the gifts God has given us. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 24 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 25 (Christmas Day) We thank you, loving God for the gift of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ who brings reconciliation. May we come to know you more clearly and serve you more faithfully as we receive the Christ Child again.

Tuesday, December 26 For Christ, there was no room in the inn; we pray for those who seek shelter. Christ had to flee his birthplace; we pray for those who seek refuge. Christ read scripture as a child; we pray that God's wisdom will enlighten our minds and direct our paths.

Wednesday, December 27 We pray for Cedar Tree Ministries, an outreach ministry for Indigenous people on Vancouver Island that hopes to bring healing and reconciliation between the church and the First Nations, as well as to worship God.

Thursday, December 28 We pray for Bishop Szablocs Bogdán as he provides leadership to the Reformed Church in Romania, Királyhágómellék District for the next five years.

Friday, December 29 We give thanks for the Rev. Mary Fontaine, Moderator of the General Assembly, and the connections she is making with congregations and individuals as she serves the church.

Saturday, December 30 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.