

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 25th, 2022

Christmas Day

"He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word." – Hebrews 1: 3a

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 Holly and the Ivy" – Gordon Phillips

Welcome and Announcements

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Special Presentation

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Lighting the Christ Candle
(PWS&D Insert)

Praise:

"Oh come, all ye faithful"

#159

Prayer of Confession: **(Unison)**

**God of the highest heaven and the humble manger,
we gather on Christmas day with glad hearts.**

**Familiar carols lift our spirits; familiar faces bring a smile to our lips.
Yet we confess our Christmas joy often doesn't last.**

**Worries cast a shadow over the manger.
Business as usual waits outside the stable door.
Forgive us when we rush through Christmas
and miss the gift of peace you offer us in the Christ Child.**

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: *"Good Christians, all rejoice"* **#141**

(Children return to pews)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1: 1-4

John 1: 1-14

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

"The Light"

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

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

Praise: *"Joy to the World"* **#153**

Benediction

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

Postlude: Fantasia on "Joy to the World" – Mark F. Cheban

Greeters and Collectors:

**Sheila Coulter, Esther Efeme, Sammy Lyonga Ngombe,
Prince Lyonga Ngombe, Donna Bailey**

Lock up:

Sheila Coulter



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.

Blessings to Ty McKenzie and Bethany Home

For several years, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church has been blessed to be in relationship with our friend-in-mission Ty McKenzie, first in his role as Chaplain at the Lighthouse, and now in his new role at Salvation Army Bethany Home. This morning, we are grateful to be able to give thanks to Ty and Bethany Home for all of their wonderful work in being a place of stability and support for so many. As we give a token of support from our church's Memorial Fund, we also pray that we may remain partners for years to come.

The Advent Walk to Bethlehem, undertaken by some members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church-Saskatoon, was successfully completed. In Biblical times, the journey was about 145 km and we can only imagine the conditions that Mary and Joseph endured. We may have Ice, snow, sleet and detours at times to slow us down in Saskatoon. Mary was in her third trimester and no one knows positively that she rode a donkey the whole way. We know that they travelled upward, due to Bethlehem being located in the Judean Mountains, and in some places the paths were inaccessible. Weather conditions, minimum food, thieves and dangerous animals would have jeopardized their travels. We, at St. Andrew's, have collectively travelled 226.35 km as of Wednesday December 20, still leaving a few more days for members walking, swimming, bike-riding and jogging as we anticipate the birth of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, Our Lord." Thank You to all those who participated but did not submit their km.

Merry Christmas to All. Laura Van Loon, Pastoral Care Nurse

Restorative Justice Event

On Sunday, January 15th St Andrew's will be part of a leadership team that is hosting an "Interfaith-Ecumenical - Everyone is Welcome" - Youth Night at Zion Lutheran. Our guest will be Dave Feick from The Micah Mission. Our theme is Restorative Justice which also- the theme of the 2023 Week of Christian Unity

Two key activities happening at this event.

1. "**You Got Booked**" is played as a life-sized board game, facilitated by MCC staff. The activity highlights the racial disparities within the criminal justice system and outlines how people find themselves in a criminal or poverty cycle. STR8 UP is a gang exit strategy that uses story sharing as a model for accountability, capacity building and healing for its members. STR8 UP members tell their personal stories of crime, violence and gang affiliation which offers a first-person perspective to a lived experience that is explored through You Got Booked.

2. "**Hat, scarf & glove**" toss- we will be tossing these items along the river into trees and bushes with the words "this item is for you- you are loved". These items are for the unhoused citizens of Saskatoon.

RSVP: Sunday, January 15, 2022,

Dinner provided

The Event is 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran

Contact Martha 306 270 2378 to confirm attendance

NOT a youth? - you can bring in a HAT, SCARF, or set of gloves to donate to the laundry basket in the Narthex- Youth members will toss your items on Jan 15th.

CE Leaders

Dec 25 & January 1 - We encourage families to worship together, a worship bag and plan paper with crayons are also in ample supply on the CE cart in the Narthex. We welcome little hands to be busy while their ears and hearts are with us in worship. Thank you to the CE Leaders who teach our little people throughout the year, may you rest and enjoy the season break.

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 #11.

11. We call upon the federal government to provide adequate funding to end the backlog of First Nations students seeking a post-secondary education.



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



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 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.

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

In Our Wider Community

GoFORTH HUB CLUB Come and join in the first hub club gathering of the new year on Monday, January 9 from 1:30 to 4 pm. Calvin-Goforth has informally partnered with St. Andrew's as we become more missional and develop outreach initiatives in the community. Our hub club is a way to provide a fun afternoon for seniors - including time to socialize, wellness information from a pharmacist, entertainment and educational presentations, a chance to check your blood pressure, some exercise time and healthy refreshments. On Jan. 9, we have a presentation by the Saskatoon Fire Dept on how to prevent injuries from fires and falls. Come to Calvin-Goforth Presbyterian Church and join in the fun! Free parking! You can contact Laura at 306-2297846 for more information.





The Christ Candle

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

Reader 1: We are Christmas people.

Reader 2: We have heard the good news that a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us, and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: We have seen God kindle hope, peace, joy and love in our lives and in our world.

Reader 1: The centre candle in our Advent wreath is the Christ candle. From this light, all good gifts come.

Reader 2: We light this candle remembering the One who is the Light of the world.

(Light the Christ candle)

Reader 1: Let us pray:

People: Holy One, you sent your son as a baby born in Bethlehem. Give us a strong sense of his birth among us, so that our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this Christmas flame. Make your church a place that shines with the wonder of your love. Amen.

Sing verse 1 of #153 Joy to the world



Christ is Born!

Even in the face of poverty, injustice and disaster, hope finds a way.

For 75 years, our church has been faithfully putting Christ's words into action—reaching out to people affected by poverty and disaster around the globe. With Presbyterian World Service & Development, we are able to answer God's call to serve those in need, wherever they may be. Together with our partners, we are making a positive impact.

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, we are responding to hunger, poverty, injustice and disaster. We are responding to care for the poor, sick and marginalized. Together, we are helping to restore human dignity, ease the burden of want, and promote community cooperation that benefits all. As a representation of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love, we are committed to a sustainable, compassionate and just society.

As we celebrate Christ's birth this season, let us remember our neighbours near and far. Your prayers, gifts and actions make this mission possible.

This Christmas, please support PWS&D.

WeRespond.ca



 Presbyterian
World Service
& Development

*The development and relief agency
of The Presbyterian Church in Canada*

In Malawi, 13-year-old Selia was raised by her single mother after her father passed away. Her mother sold tomatoes to support Selia and her five siblings. When Selia was in grade nine, her mother's business no longer generated enough income to support the family. At the time, **Selia was attending the Neno Girls Secondary School, where Presbyterian World Service & Development provides bursary support for girls from low-income families.** The bursary allowed Selia to stay in school and successfully complete her studies. The benefits of education for girls extend not only to them individually, but also to their future families.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day) We thank God for the gift of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ who brings salvation. May we receive God's blessings through our Christmas worship as we share the Nativity Story with those around us.

Monday, December 26 (Boxing Day) 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.

Tuesday, December 27 We give thanks for the tuition support the church is providing to students at the Neno Girls Secondary School in Malawi through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Wednesday, December 28 We pray for the members and work of the International Affairs Committee.

Thursday, December 29 We pray for the Rev. Dr. Robert (Bob) Faris, Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly, as he connects with members of the church this coming year.

Friday, December 30 We give thanks to God for the ability to learn from our past and those who have come before us in order to better our future for all those who will come after.

Saturday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) We end the year in praise for God's loving kindness and care, and we pray for peace in the world.