

# ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

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

Minister: The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Minister: The Rev. Vasty Ogbe

Guest Organist: Andy de Beer

Guest Musician: Donna Fenton

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **Christmas Eve**

*"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."*

*– Luke 2: 7*

*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.*



Welcome and Announcements

- *The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli*

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

Lighting the Christ Candle  
(see *PWS&D insert*)

- Vera Abayateye, Francis Abayateye,  
Sonja Wood & Martha Fergusson

Prayer of Adoration

We adore you, O Father who created, preserves and sustains us, and has given us the light of knowledge of Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

We glory Your name Lord Jesus Christ, who for our sake became obedient unto death, thereby opening the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

We rejoice in Your fellowship, O Holy Spirit who is Lord and Giver of life, through whom we are born into God's family and made members of Christ's Body.

Accept our praise in your mercy. Amen.

**Praise:**

**“While shepherds watched”**

**#138**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind; “Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you, all humankind.

“To you, in David’s town, this day is born of David’s line a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good will henceforth from heaven to earth begin, and never cease!”

Prayer of Confession:

**O God our Father, who set forth the way of life for us in your beloved Son, we confess with shame our slowness to learn from Him and our reluctance to follow Him. Forgive us the poverty of our worship, the formality and selfishness of our prayers and neglect of fellowship. We have wasted our time and misused our gifts. So little of your love has reached others through us. If we have made no venture in fellowship, if we have kept in our heart a grievance against another, if we have not sought reconciliation, have mercy upon us and forgive us, O God; through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2: 1-7

Sermon

-The Rev. Vasty Ogbe

Sharing the Light of Christ:

*As we sing “Silent night,” a candle lighter will come to share the light of Christ with you. The unlit taper tips into the lit candle. Please share the light with your neighbours, being careful with your lit candles.*

**Praise:**

**“Silent Night”**

**#154**

Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight: glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Hallelujah, Christ, the Saviour is born! Christ, the Saviour is born!”

Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light radiant beams from thy holy face; with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Scripture Reading:

John 1: 1-14

Sermon

-The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: "Once Upon a Starry Night" by Gene Grier and Lowell Everson -Virtual Choir

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

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord in your mercy...

**All: Hear our prayer.**

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 GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME**

**Praise: "Hark! The herald angels sing" #139**

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King, peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled. Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the incarnate deity! Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild, he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise the lost of earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

Closing Prayer -The Rev. Vasty Ogbe

Benediction -The Rev. Vasty Ogbe

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

Candle lighters: Jessica Osei-Amankwah, Elizabeth Ahiahonu

This Christmas Eve we are blessed and delighted to share our sanctuary and service with our new friends in Christ:

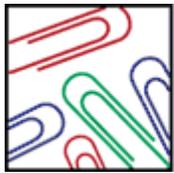
Rev. Vasty Ogbe and the Presbyterian Church in Ghana -Saskatoon.

Thank you for being with us.



The offering tonight will go to the St. Andrew's Session Benevolence Fund, which is used to offer assistance to people with urgent financial needs.

The ornaments on the Christmas tree are a visual representation of our annual Advent Appeal. Each ornament represents \$10, which has been donated by you, to aid in supplying necessities to our friends and neighbours, through various agencies. The gifts were delivered this week, and you helped to make a joyous Christmas for so many. Thanks be to God!



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 24 – January 2, inclusive.

- ❖ To have donations eligible for a 2021 charitable donation receipt, they must be received by the office **NO LATER** than January 15.
- ❖ Dorothy will be creating a new database in the new year, and needs your most current information!





# The Christ Candle

*Produced by Presbyterian World Service & Development*

**L:** God has come into the world.

**P:** **Glory to God in the highest!**

**L:** This is the good news for all people:  
to us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

**P:** **The world is transformed.**

**L:** And things cannot remain the same.

**P:** **It is made new in hope, peace, joy and love.**

*(The candle is lit.)*

**L:** Let us pray:

**P:** **Source of light,  
shine in our lives  
and in your world with  
your transforming power.  
Through Jesus Christ  
our Lord we pray. Amen.**



# Christ is Born!

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

For 75 years, our church has been faithfully responding with Presbyterian World Service & Development to God's call to serve those in need. Together with our partners, we are making a positive difference in our global village.

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 vulnerable. Working together, we are helping restore human dignity, ease the pain of want and promote community cooperation that benefits all. As an expression of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love, we are working towards a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember our neighbours near and far. Without you, this transformative work would not be possible.

This Christmas, please support PWS&D.

[WeRespond.ca](http://WeRespond.ca)



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