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 21st, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." – Matthew 1: 20b

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.



Preparation for Worship:
We invite you to observe a time of quiet reflection prior to our service.
Prelude: In Dulci Jubilo – J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Announcements - The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Lighting the Candle of love -Blessing Nditoh and Family
(See PWS&D insert)

Prayer of Adoration
Praise: ***"People, look east"*** ***#125***

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 neighbour does not please 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 joyfully in us.

Assurance of Pardon

Children's Time
(Children come forward)

Praise: ***"Prepare the way, O Zion"*** ***#129***

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.
(Children leave for Church School in the lower hall)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Readings:
Isaiah 7: 10-16 - Laura Van Loon
Psalm 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: "Mary and Joseph" - The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: Behold, a Virgin Shall Conceive…O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion, from *Messiah* – George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

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: ***"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: O Come, O Come Emmanuel – Traditional

Greeters & Ushers:	**Kirk Ready & Heather Shouse** **Charles & Laura Roy**
Coffee Hosts:	**Jane Tseng & Mary Ann**



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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Wednesday at 7pm. All unspecified donations will go to the Session Benevolence Fund, to assist those in need.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

All Donations to St. Andrew's, the national church (PWS+D and Presbyterians Sharing) and other ministries, **MUST** be in the church office no later than Thursday January 8, 2026. All donations **MUST** be dated 2025.

All church expenses must also be in to the office with supporting documentation by this date or we cannot pay them. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

The church offices will be closed over the holidays; Thursday, December 25 – Sunday, January 4, inclusive.

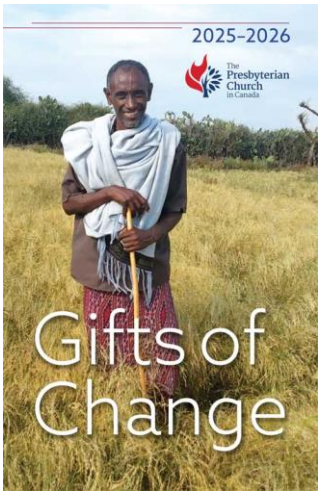


2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available on the entranceway table. In each box there is a designated envelope that enables you to help offset the cost of the offering envelopes. ***If you would prefer to make pre-authorized remittances, please fill out a blue PAR authorization form (found on the entranceway table), attach a void cheque, and place it in the offering plate. E-transfers are also an easy way to donate, but please remember to use the new e-mail address: finance@standrewsyxe.ca***



The Pilgrim's Journey: Walk to Bethlehem by Laura Van Loon, Pastoral Care Nurse
Advent is a season for looking from the darkness to the light – to prepare yourself for the coming of Jesus. Please watch for the Advent Walk which will start on November 27 and continue until December 24 when our volunteer walkers – that's YOU – reach Bethlehem where Christ the King is born. There will be a calendar of scripture readings each day for you to contemplate on your walk, or riding your stationary bike, or swim, or whatever exercise you choose that day. Let Laura know your steps so that we can be sure that collectively we make the 119 km to Bethlehem from Nazareth. Please text or phone me at 306-229-7846. My email is lauralene66@gmail.com You can pick up a copy of the Walk to Bethlehem in the narthex. It is also available as per the link provided from the church office.

Beginning January 2026, all donations to **Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry** must be sent directly to the Mission, as St. Andrew's will no longer be accepting and issuing receipts for SNCM. Here's how you can donate:
- Mail a cheque to SNCM, and we will issue you a tax receipt.
 450 20th St. W
 Saskatoon, SK S7M 0X4
- Send us an EFT at sncm1981@gmail.com, and we will issue you a tax receipt.
- Donate through CanadaHelps, and download your tax receipt.
www.canadahelps.org
Thank you for your continued support.
Blessings,
Anne Drover
Chair



Gifts of Change (What to buy for loved ones that don't want any more stuff)
Are you are struggling to find things to buy for those hard to buy for loved ones this Christmas? Are you having problems coming with a wish list to give those that are asking you for your list? Check out the Gifts of Change Catalogue provided by the PCC. There is something for every interest.
There are gifts in every price range, and all of the items in Gifts of Change are part of the bigger story of hope that is unfolding around the world through The Presbyterian Church in Canada and our partners.
Catalogues were included as an insert in the fall issue of Connections and there are a few copies of the catalogue in the church entrance. For those looking online—see https://presbyterian.ca/donate/gifts-of-change/ or you can phone 1-800-619-7301. E-transfer to gifts@presbyterian.ca is also an option.
Happy Shopping

OPERATION SANDWICHES: St. Andrew's is responsible for providing sandwiches for Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry's lunch program on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Help out with a "sandwich making party" in the church kitchen **following worship today**, or make a donation to help with the cost of sandwich ingredients. Just mark your donation "Operation Sandwiches", and place it in the offering plate.



Muffins

Our muffin ministry is once again open for business. If you would like to help with this important ministry, or if you just like baking muffins, we would encourage you to sign up on a sheet that we have left in the entryway. Select a month that is convenient and let us know how many muffins you will be able to supply. It may seem like a small thing, but it means a lot to some very stressed (and hungry) students.



We are attempting to provide 10-12 dozen muffins to the Ecumenical Chaplaincy's Good Breakfast program at the U of S on the third Sunday of each month.

All muffins should be brought to the church on the date noted on the sign-up sheet and the Outreach committee will make sure that they get to where they need to go.

It is important to note that we have been asked to not provide any muffins with either nuts or icing.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Outreach committee.



Advent Appeal

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Advent Appeal. This Sunday is the official end to our appeal, to allow us time to deliver all of the gifts, but if you still have something that you would like to donate, please let one of the committee know and they will help you out. Any monetary donations can still be made at any time up until Christmas.

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



Coffee hour has resumed.

A sign up roster can be found in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Roy at 306-361-1976 or by email cl.roy@shaw.ca

If you have things in your life for which you want to thank God, or things that are challenging in your life for which you need support, share it with the Prayer team of 15 people who are willing to spend time in prayer with God to support you.

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
- 2026 Offering Envelopes

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 standrewsyxe.ca

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: An angel of the Lord declared, "God is with us" — this is the greatest gift of love.

Voice 2: Yet even at Christmas, love is often measured by gifts and material things.

Voice 1: But God's love can come through people: a king named David, a prophet named Nathan, and Mary and Joseph. In a baby, God's love was made real among us.

Voice 2: Can we believe that God's love is revealed through people? On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love, a light for our world.

The candle of love is lit.

Let us pray together:

Living God, thank you for your deep and abiding love. May we see ourselves and others through your eyes, as we follow your way of love. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA



Esmy's Story of Entrepreneurship in Malawi

In Balaka District, Malawi, Esmy Edward, a single mother of five, once struggled to feed her family and pay school fees for her two sons in secondary school.

Her story took a hopeful turn when she joined a program to enhance climate resilience and improve income and food security through PWS&D partner, Churches Action in Relief and Development.

Esmy learned financial management, joined a village savings and loan group, and received training in climate resilient farming techniques. She received five goats, whose manure improved her crop yields. With care and sustainable practices, her herd has grown to 10, ensuring steady food and income.

Today, Esmy's thriving farm ensures the family has reliable access to food.

"I am grateful for the support I have received," Esmy says. "Now, I can provide for my children, and I envision maintaining my house and seeing my sons finish school without difficulties."

This Advent season, faithfully respond to support farmers as they work to provide food for today and an income for the future.

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Presbyterian World Service & Development

WeRespond.ca
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
1-800-619-7301 | pwsd@presbyterian.ca

MISSION MOMENT **Sunday, December 21**



Pakistan is listed among the world's worst-performing countries in education indicators. Poverty, child labour, gender discrimination and harmful norms within a highly patriarchal society impede equal access to education, particularly for girls. In response, PWS&D is implementing a school feeding project with its partner in Pakistan to encourage girls' school attendance in marginalized communities in Umerkot. Meena, a participant in the program, shares that receiving a goat as part of the School Feeding Project has become about much more than just an animal—it is a symbol of her family's commitment to education and community well-being. "Providing milk to the school is my responsibility, and I take pride in doing it because I know it benefits not just my daughter but all the children in our village. Their health and future matter to me," she shares.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 21 (4th 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 22 We pray for members of the Atlantic Mission Society and their congregations. May they experience the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that the Saviour offers to all in this time of spiritual reflection.

Tuesday, December 23 We give thanks for the gift of friendship, the joy of gathering together, and the laughter shared with loved ones.

Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) We pray that our lives may echo the refrain of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to all people."

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

Friday, December 26 We pray for teachers in the refugee camp in Beirut, who, through the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon, equip young people with skills for employment.

Saturday, December 27 We pray for congregations and ministries that provide warm meals and a place of refuge during the cold days of winter.