

# 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

*"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation..." – Luke 2:29-30*

*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: Joy to the World

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**

Call to Worship: (Responsive)

Praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord from the heavens!**

Praise God in the heights and the depths!

**Praise God, all creatures of earth and sky!**

Praise God, young and old, together!

**Let us praise the Lord and worship God's holy name!**

Prayer of Adoration

**Praise:**

***"Joy to the World"***

**#153**

Prayer of Confession: (**Unison**)

**God of our lives,**

**we know you are with us through thick and thin,**

**in times of great joy and at moments of disappointment.**

**Yet we can feel let down when the joy of Christmas Day has passed.**

**Our hope gets folded away with the gift wrap,**

**our energy for the future feels a bit tattered.**

**Forgive us when our faithfulness flickers like a candle burning down.**

Assurance of Pardon

*(Children come forward)*

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.**

**Praise:** *"Good Christians, all rejoice"* **#141**  
(Children leave for Church School)

### **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3

- Jim Fenton

Psalms 148: Refrain 1

Galatians 4: 4-7

Luke 2: 22-40

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

**Thanks be to God**

Sermon: "My Eyes Have Seen..." - The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

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

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: What Child is This?

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

...to God of the Ages

**Hear our prayer**

### **WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME**

**Praise:** *"Once in Royal David's city"* **#166**

Benediction

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

Postlude: Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

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Lock up:

Estelle Griffiths

Coffee Host:

Laura Van Loon

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YOU ARE INVITED to the lower hall following the worship service for refreshments and conversation

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.

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](mailto:office@standrews-saskatoon.com), Website: [www.standrews-saskatoon.com](http://www.standrews-saskatoon.com)

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Thursday, 9:00AM-2:00 PM

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**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.***

### 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, today. If you do not want your poinsettia they will be distributed to others or discarded during the following week. Contact Jan Rodda for information.



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.

**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.

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 #54.

National Council for Reconciliation

54. We call upon the Government of Canada to provide multi-year funding for the National Council for Reconciliation to ensure that it has the financial, human, and technical resources required to conduct its work, including the endowment of a National Reconciliation Trust to advance the cause of reconciliation.

Dhai, a woman in her early forties from Pakistan, has faced hardships throughout her life. She cared for her husband, who was disabled, until his death. She later became the sole provider for her family, working as a cook for a local landowner, which allowed her to support her family. Heavy rains in Pakistan in 2022 caused her house to collapse, leaving her family without a home. Through all this Dhai remained hopeful as she explained, "If the aid comes, it will be good." Fortunately, Dhai and her family found solace and assistance through the PWS&D-supported Humanitarian, Early Recovery and Development project, which provided them with essential food aid as well as better resilience to future disasters.



DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, December 31** We end the year in praise for God's loving kindness and care, and we pray for peace in the world.

## One Mission, Two Funds

Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and Presbyterian World Service & Development make a difference!

**Presbyterians Sharing** supports the overall mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Congregations are encouraged to raise an accepted allocation each year.



### Presbyterian World Service & Development

is the PCC's development and relief agency. PWS&D raises funds directly from congregations and individuals and through government grants—over and above gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. International Ministries mission staff, funded through Presbyterians Sharing, often work with PWS&D partners.

