

# ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

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

Minister: The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Tim Dickau

Music Director: Naomi Piggott-Suchan

Organist: Paul Suchan

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany/Heritage Sunday**

*"Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food."*

*– Isaiah 55: 2b*

*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: Elegy – Etude, op. 10, no. 3 – Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

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)

One: Let all who thirst come to the waters

**All: Let those with no money come, buy, and eat!**

One: Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

**All: Why do we spend money for that which is not bread**

One: And labour for that which does not satisfy?

**All: Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good; let us delight ourselves in rich food.**

Prayer of Adoration

**Praise:**

***"Sometimes a healing word is comfort"***

**#768**

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

**God our Father, you continually show us that your ways are not our ways; that what is small and lacking to us is abundance to you. Yet we still cling to our earthly ways.**

**Forgive us for the times when we have attempted to store up treasure here on earth, rather than trust in the true treasure in heaven.**

**Forgive us for being reluctant to share what we have for the good of all.**

**Help us to more faithfully follow the one who points to the Raven and the Lily.**

**Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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:** *"As the deer"*

**#27**

*(Children leave for Church School)*

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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 16: 13-16

- Allan Ireland

Psalm 112 Refrain 2

Isaiah 55: 1-2

Luke 12: 12-24

- The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Sermon: "Rediscovering the goodness of the gospel in God's Lavish Welcome"

- The Rev. Tim Dickau

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

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: For Love Shall Be Our Song – Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

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:** *"Love divine, all loves excelling"*

**#371**

Benediction

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

Postlude: Allegretto, from Symphony no. 3 – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Greeters & Collectors: Kirk Ready & Heather Shouse, Charles & Laura Roy

Coffee Hosts: Patti Polowick & Al Ireland



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.

CONTACT US: Phone 306-242-0525, Website: [www.standrewsyxe.ca](http://www.standrewsyxe.ca); email: [office@standrewsyxe.ca](mailto:office@standrewsyxe.ca)

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

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## *Announcements*

### **Welcome Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau, Centre for Missional Leadership at St. Andrew's Hall**

This morning, we are pleased to welcome Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau, Associate in the Missional Leadership Program, and the Director of the City Gate Leadership Forum at the St. Andrew's Centre for Missional Leadership in Vancouver. Prior to his time at the CML, Rev. Dickau served for thirty years at Grandview Baptist Church in East Vancouver. Yesterday, Dr. Dickau led a group of St. Andrew's worshippers in a leadership workshop aimed at growing our imagination for mission here in downtown Saskatoon.

The church offices will be closed tomorrow, February 17<sup>th</sup>, for Family Day.



Your 2024 charitable donation receipts, for tax purposes, are now available on the entranceway table. Please check that your address is correct, and notify the office of any changes. Any receipts that haven't been picked up by February 23<sup>rd</sup> will be mailed out. If you would like your receipt mailed out before then, please let Dorothy know.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS** for the next issue of our newsletter, "Saints Alive" is **Monday, February 24<sup>rd</sup>**. Submissions may be dropped off at the church office or emailed to [office@standrewsyxe.ca](mailto:office@standrewsyxe.ca)



**ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS!** St. Andrew's AGM will be held on Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>, following Worship. Dorothy needs your written and financial reports by Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> to prepare the report for the meeting. [office@standrewsyxe.ca](mailto:office@standrewsyxe.ca)

Coming soon! March 4<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday Dinner 4:30-6:45; proceeds for PWS&D

### **Lenten Bible Study with Rev. Roberto**

All who are interested in studying Scripture and praying through Lent together are invited to contact Rev. Roberto. We will follow a daily schedule of readings and gather weekly to discuss and pray together. Date and time TBD based on availability (Lent begins March 5). Please contact Roberto at [revroberto@standrewsyxe.ca](mailto:revroberto@standrewsyxe.ca)





**OPERATION SANDWICHES:** A HUGE thank you to everyone who increased their donations to the Sandwich Fund for Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry over the past year. It has allowed us to finally resume our pre-Covid commitment to the Mission to supply 12 dozen sandwiches twice each month. Our new year's resolution for 2025 is to cheerfully hold our sandwich making parties on the second and the fourth Sundays of each month. If you would like to help with the sandwiches, please come and join us in the kitchen after the service next Sunday, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

With the start of a New Year we are looking for volunteers to host coffee hour. If you have never done this before but would like to try, we have written instructions on what needs to be done. Ideally it is best to have two hosts for each Sunday. Our goal is to have enough people so that no one has to host more than once per quarter. Everything is supplied but if you wish to bring your own "goodies" that is up to you. We would like to thank everyone who hosted in 2024 and hope you will continue to sign up in 2025. A sign up roster can be found on the coffee table each Sunday. If anyone has any questions please contact Charles Roy at 306-361-1976 or [cl.roy@shaw.ca](mailto:cl.roy@shaw.ca)



### **WARM CLOTHING AND BLANKET DRIVE**

Outreach and Pastoral Care are gathering and distributing donations of new and gently used blankets, winter jackets, sweaters, boots, socks, mitts, scarves and toques for Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. New underwear and stockings would also be greatly appreciated. If you have anything that you wish to donate, please drop it off in the barrel at the back of the church. The bin will be available all winter.



Thank you for your support!

**Prayer Requests:** Email Margaret Wilson at: [ma.wilson@shaw.ca](mailto:ma.wilson@shaw.ca) More information on Pastoral Care Bulletin Board.

### **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
- \* Annual Report & Financial Statements

### **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](http://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

### **New contact information!**

Website: [www.standrewsyxe.ca](http://www.standrewsyxe.ca)  
 Office email: [office@standrewsyxe.ca](mailto:office@standrewsyxe.ca)  
 Bookkeeping: [finance@standrewsyxe.ca](mailto:finance@standrewsyxe.ca)

## **PRESBYTERIANS IN EARLY SASKATOON**

We will pick up the story about 51<sup>st</sup> General Assembly held in Toronto stretching two weeks from June 3 – 16, 1925.

Tensions and ill will permeated in a way that was not typical. Finally, after a 25-year-old plan to join with the Methodists and Congregationalists to form the United Church, the Unionists thought they had done everything necessary to reach that goal.

As stated in an earlier report, the system of who could attend General Assembly was fraught with manipulation and scheming to achieve Union.

At the Presbyterian level, many commissioners appointed were in favour.

Further, many of the smaller churches were lied to. One church complained that they had been told they did not have to vote. In the case of the Montreal, Presbytery were opposed yet somehow of the 26 representatives sent, 26 voted for Union! Smells off!

In the case of P.E.I. and Nova Scotia, they also had been purposely sabotaged. The Pro-Union had 71 commissioners to represent 7,775 yet there were only two to represent 3,432.

The motion to join the United Church was read. Rev. W.G. Brown representing only 70 appointed, tried to read a carefully-written objection. He was told, "no, he could not read it" as they were out of time, yet the prepared rebuttal to Brown's unread paper was permitted to be read and was loudly cheered.

Those 70 opposing knew that, once the Moderator called for an adjournment, it would be over. They also knew if they had over forty attending the Assembly, they would be able to form a quorum and they would be allowed to start with a new Assembly. Things were so tight that Rev. Brown was the keeper at the gate so that they had enough sitting in the Assembly as they knew that the Pros were ready to pounce any time. Rev. Brown allowed only a certain number to be absent at a time. They had to check in with him and could only rotate short breaks.

Very abruptly, the Moderator called for the closing of the present Assembly. When the Moderator pronounced the benediction and the delegates backing the Moderator filed out (probably with smug faces), the 70 men opposing did not stand nor leave. They moved to the side of the church and had Rev. Dr. McQueen from Edmonton to take the chair. The Unionists still did not give in easily, got their Organist to play the Hallelujah so loudly trying to drown them out.

Despite the attempt, they arranged to gather at another church, Knox later that evening.

Knox was filled to overflowing and at exactly 12:00 midnight, the hour when The Church Union Act came into effect.

They had Rev. Ephriam Scott, editor of The Presbyterian Record for years, elected as the new Moderator of The General Assembly.

Rev. Scott called upon the whole congregation to rise and sing, "Oh God Our Help In Ages Past". It was an historic and memorable time. June 10, 1925 was the beginning of a new and energized Presbyterian Church.

This is the shortest version of this struggle and rebirth. After intense and sometimes confusing information, I now realize how deeply Saga cut into the hearts of so many remaining Presbyterians. During this long journey, friends became foes, families had brothers lose relations with brothers or other family members.

For many years, many struggled to come to a place of forgiveness, but never forgot.

As new generations came on board, they eventually did not have to struggle with forgiveness. We, as third, fourth and fifth generations should not forget. I believe this story helps people know and understand.

I hope new generations will move forward with love, understanding, to carry our church forward with acknowledgement and gratitude to those who lived and worshipped God,

### **Summary \*Votes By Congregations**

Synods	*No. Of Congregations	Votes For Union People	Votes Against Union People
Maritimes	113	7,806	3,450
Montreal, Ottawa	107	12,016	4,599
Toronto/ Kingston	253	30,012	12,394
Hamilton/ London	179	33,091	9,897
Manitoba	12	891	346
Saskatchewan	25	934	419
Alberta	41	2,125	728
B.C.	31	2,254	1,039
Totals	760	79,129	32,872

\*Totals taken from June 27, 1925 Bulletin by the Continuing Presbyterian Church.





# MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, February 16

Bishar, a 13-month-old boy from Sudan, was showing signs of illness for several days when a community health worker from Trocaire visited his home. Already stressed by the difficulties of providing for her family, Bishar's mother, Nuria Mohamed, was deeply worried about his condition.



By measuring Bishar's upper arm circumference, the community health worker discovered that he was severely malnourished and referred him to the hospital. During his three-week stay, Bishar received dedicated care and medical intervention and was soon allowed to return home. His recovery brought hope to his family. Nuria expressed immense gratitude for the staff's dedication and the hospital's assistance in saving her son's life. PWS&D supports Trocaire through its ecumenical collaborations with Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

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## DAILY PRAYERS

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**Sunday, February 16 (Heritage Sunday)** We pray for enthusiastic members of congregations across the country who spend countless hours compiling their church history so that a record of the witness of those who have come before will live on for those who will follow.

**Monday, February 17** We pray for Knox College students as they step away from scheduled classes for their Reading Week (Feb 17-21). We ask for refreshment and renewal as they prepare to return for their final assignments and commitments of the winter 2024 semester.

**Tuesday, February 18** God of justice and mercy, fill us with courage and hope as we engage in the work of repairing, restoring, reconciling and healing the harm the church has caused by excluding and marginalizing LGBTQI2+ people.

**Wednesday, February 19** We give thanks for God's Creation in the farm, fields and forests at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre and pray for the safe arrival of new lambs.

**Thursday, February 20 (World Day of Social Justice)** We give thanks for the work that the PCC is doing for the healing of Indigenous nations through its Confession, Apology and the Doctrine of Discovery.

**Friday, February 21** We pray for peace and an end to the violence in Israel, Palestine, Lebanon and surrounding areas.

**Saturday, February 22 (Coldest night walks)** We pray for people facing housing insecurity. We pray that governments and decision makers work to remove barriers so that all people have access to affordable, safe and adequate housing.