

WELCOME

If you are a visitor or newcomer, our first hope is that you will experience God's love and care. Our second hope is that you will also experience our love and care. Some of us are shy and quiet. Others of us are bold and outgoing. Yet, in all our ways we want to say: "YOU ARE WELCOME!"

OUR OFFERING

Offering gifts to God's service is an integral part of our worship. Many people at St. Martin's have chosen to make their offering by post-dated cheque or PAR. Others prefer weekly offering envelopes. Visitors and guest should not feel obligated to share in our offering, but may do so using the envelope in the back of the hymn book.

MUSIC

At St. Martin's we are richly blessed by many fine musicians. We encourage you to acknowledge their contributions to worship through silence, or when impelled by the Spirit, through applause.

OUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bob McPherson - Chair of the Board
Cathy Anderson - Secretary of the Board
James Cook - Treasurer
Kevin Hurlburt - Caretaker
Brandy Emmerich - Office Administrator
Brian Walton - Pastoral Care & Worship Leadership
**Keith Hall - Youth, Young Adults, Newcomer Relations,
Volunteers & Pastoral Care**
Darren Wooff - Children's Ministry & Outreach
Betty Lou Agnew - Organist
Cara Wilson - Handbell Choir
Keith Hall & Erin Tempel - Contemporary Singers
Aliah Nelson & Mars Zhao - Sanctuary Choir
Lori Cline Flath - Band Together
Donna Thiessen - Little Voices United



A congregation of The United Church of Canada

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Vision: To be a thriving, welcoming faith community that makes the example of Christ relevant to our living.

The Third Sunday to Celebrate Advent (Advent 2)

December 10, 2017

9:30 AM

Words of Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

Community Concerns

Passing the Peace

Invitation to Worship

Come, those who seek a path to live by;

Come, those who would explore the teachings of Jesus,

Come, those who open themselves to life's Holiness.

**We come seeking, exploring and opening ourselves
to the wonder and mystery of the Christmas story
and the good news that God is in our midst.**

Opening Prayer

Creator and Sustainer of Life,

we pause in the community of your people today.

**We know that within this room there are hearts filled with
faith and doubt,
hope and disappointment,
joy and sorrow.**

**Call us to be present to one another with the gifts of the Spirit
ready to listen or remain still,
ready to comfort or to wait,
ready to speak the good news or simply to cherish it.**

**Help us be to our sisters and brothers as you are to us,
a sign of hope and a companion for the journey. Amen**

Lifting our Voices in Song

“Angels We Have Heard on High” VU#38

Story Time with Darren

Children and Youth are Invited Downstairs

Prayer of Reconciliation

Lifting our Voices in Song

“Blest are They” VU#896

Listening for God’s Word: Luke 1:5 – 25

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit

and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. ²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion.

Band Together

Reflections on the Theme

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Theme Song: “I Need a Silent Night”

I need a silent night, a holy night to hear an angel voice,
through the chaos and the noise.

I need a midnight clear, a little peace right here,
to end this crazy day with a silent night.

To end this crazy day with a silent night.

Response to the Reading

Lifting our Voices in Song

“In Suffering Love” VU#614

Minute for Mission

Offering Our Gifts

Offering Song ““In Gratitude and Humble Trust” VU#544

In Gratitude and Humble trust
we bring our gifts today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life’s way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son.
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life’s work is done.

Covenant with Congregational Members of the Joint Search Committee

(members of the Joint Search Committee are
invited forward).

Today we recognize those members of our congregation
who have agreed to serve on the Joint Search Committee
to call and employ a new Minister in our church.

Friends, we celebrate with joy and gratitude that you have
been chosen by this congregation
for service on the Joint Search Committee.

We pray that you will possess the gift of discernment
and that you will prayerfully, wisely and faithfully
recommend a new minister for our congregation.

As you assume these responsibilities on our behalf
will you continue to engage in regular worship
and prayerful reflection, and will you remain open
to the movement of God’s Spirit?

We will God being our helper.

Will you the congregation of St. Martin’s Church
honour the work of these people
and hold them in your prayers.

We will God being our helper.

In the name of God: Creator, Christ and Spirit
we affirm you and your work on the Joint Search Committee.

**May God bless you in your work and nurture you through the Spirit.
Amen.**

Praying for Ourselves and Others & the Lord’s Prayer

Words of Blessing

Sung Blessing “Hope Shines Like a Solitary Star” MV#220

Hope shines as the solitary star,
faith is the inner light.
You and I together
mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.
(Sung twice)