

## 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*

2617 Clarence Avenue, Saskatoon, SK (343-7101)

E-mail: [office@stmartinsuc.com](mailto:office@stmartinsuc.com) Website: [www.stmartinsuc.com](http://www.stmartinsuc.com)

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

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### **The Fourth Sunday to Celebrate Advent (Advent 3)**

**December 17, 2017**

**9:30 AM**

#### **Words of Welcome**

#### **Acknowledgement of the Land**

#### **Community Concerns**

#### **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**

**O God, Source of Life and Love,**

**we live in a culture little interested in the ancient stories  
and historic theologies that shape us.**

**In some ways it seems as if the world has moved beyond  
the wisdom of scripture and the traditions of your church.**

**Helps us to listen to the needs of our world**

**still searching for justice for all,**

**still yearning for a lasting peace,**

**still desiring to live lives of purpose.**

**Teach us how to respond to these longings**

**with the wisdom we have learned from you.**

**Show us how we might listen carefully to our culture  
so that our words are relevant  
as we communicate the love that is core  
to our Christmas story.**

**Help us to embrace Jesus call to shine the light of love  
in the small corners of our lives  
so that your peace and justice  
might still illumine waiting hearts. Amen.**

#### **Lifting our Voices in Song**

“Jesus Bids Us Shine” VU#585 (vs. 1 & 2)

#### **Story Time – “Change for Change” with Dianne**

**Children and Youth are Invited Downstairs**

#### **Prayer of Reconciliation**

#### **Lifting our Voices in Song**

“See Amid the Winter Snow” VU#76

#### **Listening for God’s Word: Matthew 2 (selected verses)**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men<sup>[a]</sup> from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men<sup>[e]</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent

them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

#### **The Sanctuary Choir**

*“Prepare”*

#### **Reflections on the Theme**

#### **Lighting of the Fourth 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**

“What Child is This?” VU#74

#### **Affirming Minute**

#### **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.

**Praying for Ourselves and Others  
& the Lord's Prayer**

**Lifting our Voices in Song**

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" VU#36

**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)*