

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 Website: www.stmartinsuc.com

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

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

7:30 PM

Words of Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

Invitation to Worship

You are welcome here,
to this place both ancient and modern;
to this place where we remember the babe of legend and story;
to this place where we savour the nostalgia of Christmas' past
and wait with anticipation for food and laughter,
for visitors and gifts, intermingled with Love.

As we rest for a few moments in the midst of this church

**might we be able to still ourselves,
to breathe deeply, to find our centre,
and to ponder the Holy Mystery.**

Opening Prayer

Source of Love and Life Eternal,
we are here because we felt the need,
or because the family insisted,
or because it's become our tradition,
or because the ancient story still speaks to us.

Regardless of the reason we came
we pray that we may use this time well.
Nurture some of us with the music,

nurture some of us with the candles,
nurture some of us with the ancient stories,
nurture some of us as our minds wander
with memories of Christmas' past,
or the face of a loved one now gone,
or with whatever we need, in order to say,
'Amen' to this night.

"O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today." Amen.

Lifting our Voices in Song

"O Come, All Ye Faithful," VU#60

Listening for God's Wisdom in Scripture – Luke 2: 1 – 7

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Lifting our Voices in Song

"Away in a Manger" VU#69 (remain seated)

Listening for God's Wisdom in Scripture – Luke 2: 8 – 14

In that region, there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, ^[a] the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child

wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, ^[b] praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ^[c]

Lifting our Voices in Song

"Hark the Herald Angles Sing" VU#48 (remain seated)

Listening for God's Wisdom in Scripture – Luke 2: 15 - 20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Lifting our Voices in Song

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" VU#43 (remain seated)

Children's Moment

Video

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

For those in prisons; in hospital rooms; in shelters;
For those who are missing; for refugees;
– *we light a Candle for Hope*

For Syrians; for the Rohingya; for Palestinians;
For those who have suffered gun violence;
For those who have suffered domestic abuse;
- *we light a Candle of Peace*

For poets and artists and singers;
For lovers and parents and all passionate ones;
- *we light a Candle of Joy*

For those no longer with us, but whom we remember with fondness;
For those who constitute our family this night;
For lifetime friends and new companions;
-*we light a Candle for Love*

For his heart of compassion;
For his determination for justice;
For his stories and teachings;
For his love of the world;
-*we light a Candle for Jesus.*
May his light and life
inspire us to live love, tonight, and always. AMEN

“O Holy Night”

Soloist – Erica McFadden; Accompanist – Shelley McFadden

Christmas Video

Christmas Reflections

Lifting our Voices in Song

“Joy to the World” VU#43

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

Sharing the Light

“Silent Night” VU#67 (standing with candles)

Words of Blessing