

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!"

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 if you so desire you may find offering envelopes at the entrance to the sanctuary.

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
Jordan Cantwell - Worship Leadership, Admin, Pastoral Care
Keith Hall - Youth, Young Adults, Newcomer Relations,
Volunteers & Pastoral Care
Darren Wooff - Children's Ministry, Outreach, Christian Ed
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



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.

1st Sunday of Advent December 2nd, 2018 11:00 a.m.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Jeremiah 33:14-16

14 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Handbell Choir – "Sing We Now of Christmas"

Words of Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Territory

In the spirit of reconciliation
let us acknowledge our relationship
with the Indigenous people of this land.

We acknowledge that we are gathering for worship on the traditional lands of the First Nations and the homeland of the Metis. We are all Treaty people bound by the understandings made in the agreement known as Treaty Six.

Community News

Invitation to Worship & Lighting the 1st Advent Candle

God's world is a rainbow world, a joyful spectrum of colour.

Today, God speaks to us in the greening of a righteous branch.

We long for the Christ to bring colour to a waiting world.

Let us worship God in this season of hope.

[Green Advent candle is lit.]

We Sing “Hope Is a Star” (v.1) VU #7

Opening Prayer

We pray for hope, in a world that sometimes feel hopeless:

God, grant us a vision of your future, so we may have hope.

Let it give us strength in hard times and be a cause for celebration in times of delight. Amen.

Lighting the Peace Candle

Sing: “Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands”(v.1) MV #173 (repeat)

Story Time with Jordan

Children are Invited Downstairs

Lifting our Voices in Song “All Earth Is Waiting” VU #5

Offering Our Gifts

Offering Song “In Gratitude and Humble Trust” (VU #544) (tune VU# 64)

**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best 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.**

Listening for God’s Word: Luke 21:25-36 (from “The Message”)

“It will seem like all hell has broken loose—sun, moon, stars, earth, sea, in an uproar and everyone all over the world in a panic, the wind knocked out of them by the threat of doom, the powers-that-be quaking.

“And then—then!—they’ll see the Son of Man welcomed in grand style—a glorious welcome! When all this starts to happen, up on your feet. Stand tall with your heads high. Help is on the way!”

He told them a story. “Look at a fig tree. Any tree for that matter. When the leaves begin to show, one look tells you that summer is right around the corner. The same here—when you see these things happen, you know God’s kingdom is about here. Don’t brush this off: I’m not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too—these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won’t wear out.

“But be on your guard. Don’t let the sharp edge of your expectation get dulled by parties and drinking and shopping. Otherwise, that Day is going to take you by complete surprise, spring on you suddenly like a trap, for it’s going to come on everyone, everywhere, at once. So, whatever you do, don’t go to sleep at the switch. Pray constantly that you will have the strength and wits to make it through everything that’s coming and end up on your feet before the Son of Man.”

Contemporary Choir – “There’s a Song in the Air”

Response to the Reading & Advent Message from our Moderator

-- time for silent reflection --

Lifting our Voices in Song “Christ, Within Us Hidden” MV #162

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ, a banquet prepared for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, God of hope, Giver of all life,

Source of love that knows no boundaries.

Throughout the ages, your song of liberation has impregnated us with your hope for a world where:

those considered last and least are first and most;

where violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love;

and, all people work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth, and send prophets to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us.

We praise you that your wisdom is shown to us
in womb and tomb,
in cradle and cross,
in tenderness and compassion.

As we wait and watch for your coming among us, we proclaim your goodness.

Sing: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (v. 1) VU #1

**O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Prayers of the People

At this time, we also remember
all with whom you would have us share your feast.
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...
all who are ill or alone...
all who are close to our hearts...
all our relations who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...
all whose lives have been blighted by violence, racism, or poverty...
for all whom the world counts as last and least.

God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding,
this wine the medium of our transformation,
this table the foundation of our renewal,
and this community the place of our rebirth. Amen.

Remembering Jesus at Table

At this time, we remember Jesus, who on the night before he died,
took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said,
"Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."
Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,
"This is the cup of the new covenant;
when you drink from it, remember me."

Prayer for the Spirit

Gracious God, Source of love, we pray for your Spirit.

Make us, while many, one.

Make us, though broken, whole.

Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The body of Christ,

the Bread of life.

The lifeblood of Christ,

the cup of blessing.

Let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world.

Sharing the Elements MV #202 "Bread for the Journey"

Prayer after Communion

**We thank you, God, for breaking into our world
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.**

**We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving
and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.**

Lifting our Voices in Song "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope" MV #33

Words of Blessing

Sung Benediction "Hope Shines as a Solitary Star" MV #220 (repeat)

Portions from this service were adapted from materials found in "Gathering Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2018-2019" and the United Church of Canada website.