

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.

3rd Sunday of Advent December 16th, 2018 11:00 a.m.

10:55 am Community News

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 12:2-3

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

and has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;

make known God's deeds among the nations;

proclaim that God's name is exalted.

Musical Reflection – "Gloria"

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.

Invitation to Worship & Lighting the 3rd Advent Candle

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

Today, God speaks to us in the blue of thirst-quenching water.

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

Let us worship God in this season of joy.

[The blue Advent candle is lit.]

We Sing "Hope Is a Star" (v.3) VU #7 *(please remain seated)*

Opening Prayer

We pray for joy, in a world where there is so much cause for sorrow:

Ever-present God, fill our hearts with gratitude, so that joy bubbles up like an irrepressible spring. May it strengthen us in hard times and be a cause of celebration in times of bliss. Amen.

Lighting the Peace Candle

Sing: "Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands" (v.1) MV #173 (repeat)

(please remain seated)

Story Time with Keith

"Change for Change"

Children and youth are Invited Downstairs

Contemporary Choir – "Tell It on the Mountain"

Affirming Minute

Offering Our Gifts

Offering Song "In Gratitude and Humble Trust" (VU #544, tune #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.**

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Lifting our Voices in Song "When the Wind of Winter Blows" MV #71

Listening for God's Word: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Lifting our Voices in Song "All Who Are Thirsty" MV #4

Response to the Reading

-- time for silent reflection --

Lifting our Voices in Song "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" VU #35

Words of Blessing

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