

## 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.

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**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 11:00 a.m.**

### **Community News 10:55 am**

#### **Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

#### **Musical Reflection**

#### **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 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle**

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

**Today, God speaks to us in the purple of royalty and abundance.**

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

**Let us worship God in this season of love.**

**We Sing** “Hope Is a Star” (v.4) VU #7

**Opening Prayer**

O God, our deliverer:

**you cast down the mighty and lift up those of no account; like Elizabeth and Mary, who embrace one another with songs of liberation, may we, pregnant with your Spirit, affirm one another in hope for the world; in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**Lighting the Peace Candle**

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

**Story Time with Darren**

**Lifting our Voices in Song** “People, Look East” (vs.1,2,5) VU #9

**Sacrament of Baptism**

**Presentation of Otis Alexander Koroll**

**Statement of Purpose**

The sacrament of Baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.

By water and the Spirit, we are called, claimed and commissioned:

We are called God’s own, welcomed as children of God;

We are claimed by Christ, united with Christ, united with one another and the Christian community of every time and place;

We are commissioned to Christ’s ministry of love, peace and justice and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.

**Profession of Faith and Promises**

**Congregational Commitment** (*congregation please stand as able*)

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer God’s gifts of grace and welcome in baptism.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to these persons as they live and grow in Christ?

**We promise our love, support and care, God being our helper.**

**A New Creed**

Let us join in a statement of our communal faith.

VU 918

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Pouring of the Water**

In the pouring of this water, we recall Isaiah’s promise:

“Waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.”

We recall Ezekiel’s declaration:

“I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean.”

We recall the Psalmist’s testimony:

“Beside the still waters, God leads me.”

We recall the words of Jesus:

“Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

May God’s Spirit be upon us and these waters of daily use, which we now use to baptize and to welcome.

**Amen.**

**Act of Baptism**

### **Baptismal Prayer**

God of the warm waters of birth, we thank You for this child who has been baptized into the Way of Jesus today. We welcome Otis as a brother into our family of faith of St. Martin's United Church. We ask that You might watch over Otis with Your Holy Spirit and guide him in the right paths. Give him good questions with which to seek You and grant us all the grace to live out our baptisms. Amen.

### **Presentation of Candle, Certificate and Prayer Shawl**

#### **Welcome of New Members by Transfer**

By baptism we are made members of Christ's church. We exercise this membership within the United Church of Canada and specifically, within a local community of faith.

We now welcome two individuals who are choosing to transfer their memberships from another community of faith to St. Martin's United Church. Today we welcome Bonnie and Lyle Skaalid.

Lyle and Bonnie, will you join with us in this place as we celebrate God's presence; live with respect in creation; and love and serve others?

**I will, with God's help and the support of this community.**

#### **Congregational Commitment** *(congregation please stand as able)*

Let us pledge to Lyle and Bonnie our support and care:

**As your relatives in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.**

**We pledge to you our love and support and welcome you to the possibilities and responsibilities of life within St. Martin's Church.**

**With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church. Thanks be to God!**

### **Welcome and Presentation of Prayer Shawls**

### **Children and Youth are Invited Downstairs**

### **Lifting our Voices in Song "All Poor Ones and Humble" VU #68**

### **Minute for Mission**

### **Offering Our Gifts**

**Band:** Were You There on That Christmas Night?

### **Offering Song "In Gratitude and Humble Trust" (VU #544)**

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 "A Candle Is Burning" (vs.1&4) VU #6**

#### **Listening for God's Word:** Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

**Band** – Breath of Heaven

**Response to the Reading**

*-- time for silent reflection --*

**Lifting our Voices in Song** “My Soul Cries Out” MV #120

**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 A/C/E 2018-19, and Worship for All Seasons II.