

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
December 16, 2020**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

OUR MISSION: Christ calls us to be faithful disciples who strive to be joyful in our worship, tender in our life together, and daring in our outreach.

We acknowledge we worship on Treaty 4 Territory, the traditional homeland of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the Métis Nation.

Minister: The Rev. Amanda Currie

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn **Hope is a star** **#119**

Call to Worship

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening
and the day is almost over.
Let your light scatter the darkness
and illumine your church.

Prayer of Approach

Hymn **Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel** **#122**

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Reading Luke 14:15-24

Sung Responses (#474)

**The love of God comes close
where stands an open door,
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor.**

**The love of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the love of God is here to stay.**

Reading Matthew 11:28-29

**The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease
to ease the lives forlorn.
The peace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the peace of God is here to stay.**

Reading Revelation 21:1-7

**The joy of God comes close
where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears.
The joy of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the joy of God is here to stay.**

**The grace of God comes close
to those whose grace is spent,
when hearts are tired and sore
and hope is bruised and bent.
The grace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk the Way;
the grace of God is here to stay.**

Ministry of Music: "*In the Bleak Mid-Winter*" Marianne Woods

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Lighting Candles

We light four candles tonight in honour of our loved ones.
We light one for our **grief**, one for our **courage**,
one for our **memories**, and one for our **love**.
Four candles are lit.

HYMNS

You are invited to light a candle now also.
Let that candle represent your burdens, griefs, and sorrows, all those things that make Christmas a “blue” time for you. If you are remembering a loved one who has died, you may wish to speak their name aloud as you remember them. If you are grieving other losses or difficulties, you may want to name those things also.
Gentle music plays as we light our candles.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn: Silent night #154

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Together, in the words of Jesus, we pray...
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Hymn 'Twas in the moon of wintertime #144

Benediction and Postlude

#119 - Hope is a star

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

**Refrain: When God is a child
 there's joy in our song.
 The last shall be first
 and the weak shall be strong,
 and none shall be afraid.**

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

Refrain

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.**

Refrain

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.**

Refrain

#122 - Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

**Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain Rejoice, rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Oh come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go.**

Refrain

Oh come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.

Refrain

Oh come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart, one mind;
bid envy, strife and discord cease,
and be thyself our source of peace.

Refrain

#154 - Silent night

Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour is born!"

Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

#144 - 'Twas in the moon of wintertime

'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round,
but, as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high:

Refrain

The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory
on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.

Refrain

O children of the forest free,
the kin of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace and joy.

Refrain