

**First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021
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
Music Director: Will Ireton

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Graeme Mitchell

Entry of the Written Word

Candle Song: "Hope is a star" (verse 1) #119

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

Lighting the Candle of Hope (see insert) Alfred Ferozdin

Hymn: Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel (v. 1, 4-7) #122

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**Lord, have mercy on us.
We are not ready for your coming.
We live in sin,
as though there were no justice.
We live in fear,
as if there were no grace.
Forgive us, Lord.
Show us your mercy and steadfast love.
Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths,
for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Ministry of Music "Bring Us Hope" Ruth Elaine Schram

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

Hymn: People in darkness #124

Prayer for Illumination Andrew Donovan

Scripture Readings:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-10

Sung Response: **The Lord will come and not be slow,
God's footsteps can not err.**

R To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
**for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.**

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! **R**

Good and upright is the Lord;
**therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way,
leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches them the way they should go.**

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep God's covenant and decrees. **R**

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: *Blooming in the Darkness*

Mission Moment: Donna Wilkinson

Advent In Memoriam Project: (PWS&D: Afghanistan)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

**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,
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Hymn: Lo! Christ comes with clouds #120

We Present our Gifts to God

Offertory "Advent Hymn" Christy Nockels

Doxology (#830) and Prayer of Dedication:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn: Prepare the way, O Zion #129

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amen (#780): **Amen, amen, amen.**

Aaronic Blessing (#619):

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you his peace.**

Postlude

HYMNS for Sunday November 28th

#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 Branch of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from the depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

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, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

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

#124 - People in darkness

People in darkness are looking for light.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People with blindness are longing for sight.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure
when all people wait
are days for the advent of love.

People with sickness are praying for health.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People in poverty want to have wealth.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure
when all people wait
are days for the advent of hope.

People in trouble would like to be free.
Come, come, come Jesus Christ.
People with arguments want to agree.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure
when all people wait
are days for the advent of peace.

People in sadness are trying to sing.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure
when all people wait
are days for the advent of joy.

#120 - Lo! Christ comes with clouds

Lo! Christ comes with clouds descending,
Lamb of God for sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the Lord's triumphant train.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold thee
robed in awe and majesty;
we, who scorned and mocked and sold thee,
pierced and nailed thee to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

Now redemption long awaited,
see in glorious life appear!
All God's creatures freed from groaning,
sounds of liberation hear:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear.

Evermore let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
crowns and empires fall before thee;
thou shalt reign and thou alone.
Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus;
 come, Lord Jesus!
Claim all glory for thine own.

#129 - Prepare the way, O Zion

Prepare the way, O Zion: your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; Christ comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Saviour's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Bring Us Hope - Ruth Elaine Schram

*Bring us hope, bring us love;
Bring us peace and joy from above.*

Refrain:

*Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above.
Bring us hope, bring us hope.*

*Bring us light, take our darkness away.
Bring us light, turn our night into day.*

Refrain

*Hope to replace our hopelessness,
Love to refill our emptiness,*

*Peace in the midst of our distress;
Oh, how we need Your joy!*

*Bring us hope, bring us love;
Bring us peace and joy from above.*

Refrain

Advent Hymn - Christy Nockels
*Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the everlasting Light,
The sun of Righteousness arise,
And triumph over these shades of night.*

*Come, Thou long awaited One,
In the fullness of Your love.
And loose this heart bound up by shame,
And I will never be the same.*

*Refrain: So, here I wait in hope of You,
All my soul's longing through and through.
Day-spring on high, be near,
And Day-star in my heart appear*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn,
until Your love in me is born.
And joyless is the evening song,
until Emmanuel has come.*

Refrain

Pray with your First Church Family

Please pray for...

- That Christian communities may gather face-to-face and experience a renewal of faith and hope.
- All those in B.C. and the Maritimes who are being affected by storms and flooding, including those who have lost loved ones, those who have lost their homes, those in danger, and those bringing emergency assistance.
- Our refugee families (the Saleem family and the Matthiang family) that they may receive the gift of hope as they continue to endure challenges and wait for the opportunity to come to Canada.
- Those who are sick or recovering from illness, including Irene & Gerry Marche.

Praise God for...

- The promise of Christ's coming again to make all things new, making justice and righteousness flourish.
- Strength from God to endure difficulties, and the gift of hope for the future.
- The approval of the Pfizer Covid-19 Vaccine for kids ages 5 -11 years in Canada.
- Health care professionals who are working so hard to care for sick people.

This Week at First Church

Nov. 28	10:30 am	Worship (In-Person & Online) First Sunday of Advent
	12:15 pm	Sunday School (Zoom)
	1:00 pm	Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Nov 30 – Dec. 3	@ 11 am	Walk to Bethlehem (gymnasium)
Nov. 30	12:00 pm	Freedom 55ers (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Presbyterians Read (Zoom)
Dec. 1	12:00 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	Session (Zoom)
Dec. 2	7:00 pm	Choir
Dec. 3	10:00 am	Pastoral Care Committee
Dec. 5	10:30 am	Worship (In-Person & Online) Second Sunday of Advent
	12:15 pm	Sunday School (Zoom)
	1:00 pm	Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Our Welcome Team this Month Alfred Ferozdin, Murray Kyle, Heather Mazurak, Marianne Woods

Office Hours Mon. 8:30 - 11:15 / Wed. to Fri. 8:30am - 2pm.
Contact Shirley at the office at 306-522-9571 or
firstpresregina@sasktel.net.

Donors needed December is a wonderful month to give the Gift of Life. It only takes one hour to save a life by donating blood. Individuals can book an appointment at blood.ca or call 1-888-2-DONATE.

Special Christmas Services:

During the Advent and Christmas Seasons, plan to worship with us at First Church for two special services:

Blue Christmas Service – Wednesday, Dec. 15th at 7pm.

This will be a quiet, reflective service especially for those who may be struggling with loss, grief, or sadness during this season. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one.

Christmas Eve Service – Friday, Dec. 24th at 7pm.

This will be a perfect opportunity to invite your family and friends to join in celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Lord. Last year we couldn't gather the whole community on this special night, but we can do so this year, so do plan to join us again!

Thank you to everyone who donated sandwiches for Waterston House. It is great way to help those in need and very much appreciated. ~ Margaret Klassen

Christmas Giving In Memoriam A First Church Advent Project ~ Afghanistan Food Crisis

18 million Afghanis are facing serious food shortages as winter approaches. The UN Food Programme estimates that 1 in 3 people are hungry now. This situation will worsen over the coming months.

Why? Ongoing conflicts and the recent Taliban takeover destabilized the country and dried up international aid. Severe drought hurt crop and livestock production. The pandemic has made bad economic conditions worse.

Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWSD) is responding with emergency food assistance in partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a consortium of Canadian churches. This project will receive matching funds from the Canadian Government which allows help to reach even more people.

The project gives cash to the most vulnerable families so they can buy food and pay for critical items, with the hopes of livelihood recovery in the new year. This aid is focussed on women-headed households, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Your gifts to the Christmas In Memoriam project will help people get through a very challenging season. Thank you!

Christmas Giving In Memoriam

Names received by Thursday, Dec. 16 will be acknowledged on Sunday, Dec. 19. Complete the form and mail with your cheque payable to First Presbyterian Church to the office (2170 Albert St, S4P 2T9) or e-transfer your donation to firstpresreginaoffering@gmail.com with your name, donation amount, envelop #; and the In Memory/Living Tribute name(s).

A few Christmas plants will be purchased to beautify the chancel during Advent. All other funds will be sent to PWSD.

Your Name: _____

Env. # _____ Amount \$ _____

Please use my gift:

In memory of: _____

In living tribute to: _____

Thank you for participating! Mission & Outreach Committee