

**1st Sunday of Advent
November 29, 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

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Candle Song: #119, verse 1

**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.**

Litany from PWS&D (see p. 5)

Alfred Ferozdin

Hymn: Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel #122

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

Hymn: Hope, hope, hope, hope

**Hope, hope, hope, hope,
the gospel in a word is hope.
Hope that gives us courage to serve you.
Hope, hope, hope.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Sung Response: **Turn us again Lord God of hosts
and hear your people's cry.**

R Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you, who lead Joseph like a flock!
**You, who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine
forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!**
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
**You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.**
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved. **R**

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you have made strong for yourself.
**Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.**
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved. **R**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Ministry of Music Alison Purdy & Steven Greves
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" arr. by J.A. Behnke

Sermon *A Letter of Hope*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People & 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: All earth is waiting #109

We Present our Gifts to God

Offertory

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.**

Hymn: Born in the night #137

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 29th

#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, oh come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,**

**in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain***

**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 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***

#109 - All earth is waiting

**All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for truth.**

**Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,"
one whose name is "God-with-us" our Saviour shall be;
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.**

**In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;
yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.**

#137 - Born in the night

**Born in the night, Mary's child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's child,
born in a borrowed room.**

**Clear shining light, Mary's child,
your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's child,
dawn on our darkened day.**

**Truth of our life, Mary's child,
you tell us God is good;
prove it is true, Mary's child,
go to your cross of wood.**

**Hope of the world, Mary's child,
you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's child,
walk in our streets again.**

This Week at First Church

Sun. Nov. 29	10:30 am	Worship (online)
	12:15 pm	Sunday School by Zoom
	1:00 pm	Advent Party on Zoom
	2:30 pm	Advent Hymn Sing
Mon. Nov. 30	2:00 pm	Advent with the Moderator
Tues. Dec. 1	7:30 pm	Advent Book Study
Wed. Dec. 2	7:00 pm	Session Meeting
Sun. Dec. 6	10:30 am	Worship (online)
	12:15 pm	Sunday School by Zoom
	2:30 pm	Advent Hymn Sing

First Church Fellowship by Zoom Video Conference

Everyone is invited to join with First Church friends for fellowship and connection using Zoom video conferences every week: **All Zoom links are sent out by email. If you don't receive the Zoom links you need, email, text, or phone Amanda.**

Annual Advent Party The Fellowship Committee is hosting our Annual Advent Party on November 29, 2020 from 1-2pm. Our party will be a wee bit different this year as we will be celebrating on Zoom. We invite you to 'dress up' in a Christmas theme ~ a Santa hat, an ugly Christmas sweater or a beautiful Christmas sweater. We will have some Advent activities, Christmas Jeopardy, carol singing, a Christmas Scavenger hunt...and a lot of fun. Since we can't provide you with a snack, we invite you to bring some Christmas goodies with you so we can enjoy a snack time together. Plan on joining all the other fun-loving people at First for this event. We will be using the regular Coffee Hour Zoom link. Be in touch if you have not received it. Hope to see all of you there!!

Advent with the Moderator: Letters of Encouragement

When: Monday, November 30, 2020 | 2:00 p.m. (SK time)
You are invited to spend an hour with the Rev. Amanda Currie, Moderator of the General Assembly, and begin the Season of Advent together with Presbyterians across the country.

In this difficult and uncertain time, we will come together to reflect, pray and encourage one another in faith. We will look at the Epistle readings that come up in the lectionary during Advent, paying attention to the assurances of the apostles for the earliest Christian communities, and listening together for the encouragement that we need today. Please register for this gathering to receive your unique link to join the meeting.

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuf-ypqT8oEt2HKD-eNA-Ek8XXPsJaKziH>

Note: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Blue Christmas Service: Wed. Dec. 16th at 7:00 pm

This Christmas Season will be different from usual for most of us. We may be missing family get-togethers, church celebrations, concerts, and other traditions that lift our spirits and fill us with joy and hope. Every year, we offer a “Blue Christmas Service” for those in our community who are struggling with sadness, loss, or grief while others are feeling joyful. This year, I hope that you’ll consider joining us either in-person or online whether you have lost a loved one recently or you’re just struggling a bit as we move towards Christmas of 2020. If you are worshipping with us from home, get out a candle and matches so that you can light a candle of hope in the midst of darkness during the service.

Advent & Christmas at First Church

Advent Worship Services: Sundays Nov. 29 – Dec. 20 at 10:30 am (online).

Advent Party on Zoom: Nov. 29th at 1:00 pm

Advent & Christmas Hymn Sings: Sundays Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13 at 2:30 pm (livestreamed to Facebook).

Advent Book Study on Zoom: Tues. Dec. 1, 8, 15, & 22 at 7:30 pm.

Blue Christmas Service: Wed. Dec. 16th at 7:00 pm (online)

Online Christmas Pageant: Sunday Dec. 20th at 2:30 pm (livestreamed to Facebook)

Christmas Eve Service: Thursday Dec. 24th at 7:00 pm

Office Hours

Mon.: 8:30 – 11:00 am; Wed. to Fri.: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.
Contact Shirley at the office at 306-522-9571 or firstpresregina@sasktel.net.

Rev. Amanda Currie works from home most days and from the office occasionally. You can continue to reach her by phone or text message (306-580-8095) or by email (revfpc@sasktel.net). A physically-distanced pastoral visit is always possible, as well as a phone call or Zoom video call.

First Sunday in Advent Hope



Written by the Rev. Kristine O'Brien
(Director of Crieff Hills)

- L: The season of Advent begins, and we celebrate the hope we find in the good news of the Gospel.
- P: **Through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God comes to save the world.**
- L: While we watch and wait for Jesus, we join God's mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.
- P: **We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.**
- L: We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of hope and healing as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.
- P: **Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.**

(The candle is lit)

- L: Let us pray:
- P: **God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.**



We Are Role Models

There is no question how important sexual reproductive health awareness is to help create healthy communities.

In Malawi, topics such as sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive health questions are often considered taboo.

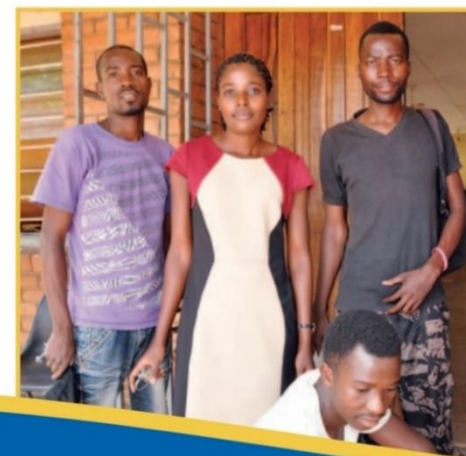
Thokozani, Peter and Mafuno are peer educators who are challenging the stigma surrounding reproductive health by teaching youth about family planning, preventing teenage pregnancy, HIV testing and accessing contraceptives.

Thokozani, Peter and Mafuno have begun see the impact of their work.

"The participants want to start engaging in better and healthier behaviour," Peter reports. "They are now getting tested and treated for sexually transmitted diseases."

The three educators also realize their roles are much bigger than just teaching, "we are role models to these people," Mafuno shares proudly.

This Advent season help us support community volunteers as they educate and empower young people on important health issues.



WeRespond.ca

Christmas Giving In Memoriam

We invite you to include one or both of these projects in your Christmas giving this year. One project assists our international neighbours and the other shares with our local neighbours.

First Church Refugee Fund

Our congregation is sponsoring two refugee families who had to flee from civil war and religious persecution.

- The Mathiang family escaped South Sudan in 2014 and live in a UNHCR refugee camp in Sudan.
- The Saleem family fled Pakistan in 2016, and are living in Malaysia. Though not in a camp, their situation is also difficult.

Each family includes five members ranging across three generations - grandparent, parent, child.

Your gifts will help us be ready when the families arrive. \$28,000 is needed to reach our financial goal.

Regina's Indigenous Christian Fellowship

Located in North-Central Regina, ICF ministry serves the spiritual and social needs of urban Indigenous people. ICF offers community programming, weekly soup and bannock lunches and family breakfasts, prayer circles, talking circles and pastoral support. The agency partners with other local groups to provide skill building programs.

Your contributions will allow ICF to extend its small budget further and meet larger community needs during this pandemic.

Christmas Giving In Memoriam

Names received by Thursday, December 17 will be acknowledged on Sunday, Dec 20

1. Complete this form and mail with your cheque (payable to First Presbyterian Church) to the church office (2170 Albert St, S4P 2T9).
or
2. a) E-transfers can be sent to:
firstpresreginaoffering@gmail.com
+ Please make the security question:
"The street the church is on"
and then
2. b) E-mail firstpresregina@sasktel.net
With your name, donation amount, envelope #; and the In Memory/Living Tribute name or names.

Your Name: _____

Env. # _____ Amount \$ _____

Please use my gift for:

___ Refugee Fund

___ Indigenous Christian Fellowship

In memory of: _____

In living tribute to: _____

Thank you!