



BETHEL UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Norm Laird
Music Director: Sarah Makins

December 20, 2009
4th Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Musical Prelude:

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of 4th Advent Candle:

One: The time is near. The candles shine brightly in our wreath.

All: **Hope and light.** (pause) **Star and peace.** (pause)
Joy and mystery.

One: This fourth candle is now lit: our last one before the night of Holy Birth.

All: **We celebrate love; deep and true. Divine love born into the world. We retell our stories that remind us of who we are. We tell the stories of God's love-the energy and life of creation-the Spirit of incarnation.**

Carol Sing: Which are your favourite Advent and Christmas carols?

Lighting Candles of Joy and Concern

Passing the Peace of Christ

Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-17 p. 636 (of the Old Testament)

Matthew 1:18-25 p. 1 (of the New Testament)

One: God speaks through human voices.

Response: **God's words are heard in human hearts and minds.**

Anthem: Christmas is A Feeling

Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

Christmas is a feeling filling the air,
it's love and joy and laughter of people ev'rywhere;
Christmas is a feeling bringing good cheer,
it reaches out to touch you as the holiday draws near.

Sermon:

Hymn: 12 VU, She Walked in the Summer

Offering: We consider those who are visiting with us this morning to be our guests. As a guest, when the offering plate is passed by you, please do not feel obligated to place anything on it.

Prayer of Dedication: **Our desire in our giving, O God, is that these offerings will bear fruit that is life-giving and nurturing for all whom they reach. We thank you as you bless these gifts, and bless us in our giving. Amen**

Minute for Mission: 'M&S at Home'

Prayers of and for the people and the prayer from Jesus (Translation p. 916 or 906VU)

Hymn: 73 VU, The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Benediction

Choral Closing: 37 VU, Gloria

Postlude

The Life and Work of the Congregation December 20, 2009

Welcome! We are glad you came! **Visitors** are asked to sign our guest book in the vestibule. **All are invited** to the auditorium following the service for refreshments and visiting.

Coffee (regular and decaf.) and juice are being served in the narthex each morning before the service. This is an opportunity to socialize prior to the Sunday worship services and is one way congregations are engaging in the **Emerging Spirit Campaign**.

This morning:

Head Usher: Jim Reid

Ushers and Greeters: Marilyn Sagi
Lilah Brehon

Greeter and Lift Operator:

Reader: Sheila Scott

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Cliff and Dorcas Hayes in memory of Bill and Clara Hayes.

Norm will be on vacation starting December 21, 2009 to January 2, 2010, except for December 24, 2009. If you need assistance, there are people checking the phone messages. Please call the main office at 343-6085 and leave a message; someone will return your call.

The Communication and Contact Committee have prepared Christmas flowers for 18 to 20 shut-ins to be delivered today, Sunday, Dec. 20th. Please pick up the flowers for delivery in the gym after the service.

A Thank You note from the IWS: On behalf of the International Women of Saskatoon, I wish to express my profound gratitude to both you and the entire Bethel United Church for hosting us at your Christmas party. It was a great evening. My supervisors, colleagues and clients had a wonderful time. We all felt welcomed in your church.

Thank you very much and God bless you. Please extend my personal gratitude to the Outreach Committee and the entire congregation too.

Sincerely, Ijeoma Udemgba

We are looking for **MUSICANS and SINGERS** who might like to participate in our **Sunday services**. If you are one of the musical, or know of someone who is, **please speak to Sarah**.

Weekly and monthly donation envelopes for 2010 were put in your mailboxes last week.

Bulletin covers – dates that are available are February 21 and three weeks in March/2010.

A Christmas card has been received from **Susan Bowyer** sent to **Bethel Congregation** it reads "blessings on all your work and your mission to the community." Susan enjoys reading our newsletter by email and the time she spent here while going to St. Andrew's was comforting. Susan has lost both her father and mother this past year. Her thoughts and prayers are with us. You can read more if you wish – the card is posted.

Other Church and Community events:

Holidays Basketball Skills Development Camps and Tournaments sponsored by Young Athlete Saskatchewan will be held at the Cosmo Civic Centre Sports Complex on Dec. 28-30 and Feb. 16-18 for age groups 9-11 and 12-14. Call 242-2425.

Train the Trainers Workshop 2010. The Interim Ministry training on March 16 To March 17/2010 at **St. Peter's Abbey**. Contact the office for details.

Spectrum Core Community Services need monetary support from people in Saskatoon to continue their work with people who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless and with isolated seniors in the core communities. There may be members of our congregation who are interested in making a charitable donation to support vital charitable work in Saskatoon. This would be an opportunity to donate before the end of the year. Spectrum Core Community Services, a registered charity, works to alleviate the effects of poverty for two groups of vulnerable individuals and their families in the Core Neighbourhoods of Saskatoon. In partnership with St. Thomas Wesley United Church and the Rainbow Community Centre, they provide basic services for the homeless and those at risk. Donations to Spectrum will ensure that they can continue helping those living in poverty. Please send donations to **Spectrum**, 808 – 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0Y3. Official receipts for income tax will be issued for all donations. Donations of warm winter clothing including socks and toiletries will also be gratefully accepted at the Rainbow Community Centre. Thank you for your support.

Hand-Drumming Workshop to be held at St. Martin's United Church on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The cost for the whole day is \$10.00 and that includes lunch. Facilitators for the workshop will be Brenda and Katie Curtis. They use drumming as part of the worship experiences they create. If you own your own drum, bring it; if not, instruments will be provided. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010. Registration forms are available from Keith Hall at keith.st.martin@shaw.ca

There are several families that receive a Christmas hamper through the generosity of one man, which are delivered by people of Bethel Church. Just this week, our Outreach Committee has been made aware of a family in need that will not receive a hamper. We are asking for donations this morning as assistance for this family. Please go to Jeanette, if you can help out today.

Effective Co-Parenting: 'Putting Kids First' is an education program for separated and divorced parents that will increase understanding of the developmental needs of children for self-esteem and security. It will offer skills about managing diverse shared parenting situations, provide strategies for improving communication, etc. and provide a supportive group environment to assist in planning and management of their children's needs. It is sponsored by Family Service Saskatoon and starts on February 23 to March 30, 2010 - see poster for more details, time and cost.

Scripture readings for Sunday, Dec. 27:

1 Samuel: 2:18-20, 26	<i>p.246 (Old Testament)</i>
Psalms 148	<i>p.582-583 (Old Testament)</i>
Colossians 3:12-17	<i>p.201 (New Testament)</i>
Luke 2:41-52	<i>p.59 (New Testament)</i>

Stewardship Seconds 2009 - Dec. 20:

Look for a way to bring God's love to those who are not filled with joy in this season.