



BETHEL UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Norm Laird

Organist: Sarah Makins

December 27th, 2009

First Sunday After Christmas

10:30 a.m. Family Service

Pulpit Guest: Joyce Picklyk

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting one another with the peace of Christ:

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

(silence to prepare for worship)

Our Approach

Call to Worship

All: We come together to share our wonder at the Miracle of Christmas. A child, an innocent child, shining a light of hope for peace and love throughout the world, is born. We come to praise this wondrous gift of joy and the One who has given the gift of life. And we come seeking wisdom and courage to live out the message of Christmas.

2

Prayer of Approach

All: Gracious God, always present, hear us as we come to you in prayer, opening ourselves to your gifts of love and joy. Guide us through this hour of worship and carry us through the days ahead. Help us hear you speaking through those around us, through the prayers, through the hymns and through the spoken words. Help us accept your greatest gift of Life, love, and peace brought to us through the message of Christmas. Amen

Hymn: 528 VU, God of Life

Prayer of Confession and Lord's Prayer

One: Loving and forgiving God, we have celebrated the birth of the Christ Child, and now we remind ourselves the celebration goes on. The gift of love carries on, but...

All: Too often in the turmoil of life we forget to share that love with others.

One: Loving and forgiving God, the celebration goes on. The gift of joy carries on, but...

All: Too often in the turmoil of life we forget to allow joy to be in our lives and to carry that joy to others.

One: Loving and forgiving God, the celebration goes on. The gift of peace carries on, but...

All: Too often in the turmoil of our lives we forget to make peace a part of our lives and to finding ways to promote peace throughout your world.

One: Loving and forgiving God, the celebration goes on. The gift of hope carries on, but...

All: Too often in the turmoil of our lives our hope wanes and we become complacent and we see only negative outcomes in the future.

**In all our weaknesses, God, we ask for your forgiveness and your support in bringing us to a better place in our lives, accepting and living the gifts of Christmas. We continue in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:
(The Lord's Prayer)**

Amen

Assurance of Pardon

One: Be assured, God's gifts remain in our reach and God rejoices when we strive to become one with the message of Christmas and we are in God's care even when we sometimes miss the mark.

Sung Response: 92 MV, Like a Rock (first verse twice)

Children's Time:

Hymn: 222 VU, Come, Let Us Sing

THE WORD**Scripture Readings:**

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>

Reader: This is the Word of God as it is written
in our Christian scripture.

**All: The written word of God is enlightened
by the living Word of God that is within us.**

Musical Pause

Sermon:

Pastoral Prayer

All: Gracious and loving god, we give thanks for the gift of celebration, for the gift of the Spirit of Christmas.

One: We give thanks for families and friends who have gathered together, sharing their joys and exchanging good wishes for a blessed year.

All: Gracious and loving God, we give thanks for the gift of celebration, for the gift of the Spirit of Christmas.

One: We give thanks for those who serve to feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless, sharing a time of joy and hope.

All: Gracious and loving God, we give thanks for the gift of celebration, for the gift of the Spirit of Christmas.

One: We give thanks for those who serve in the war torn areas of our world, those who work toward peace and understanding and good will for all countries and their people.

All: Gracious and loving God, we lift our prayers to you. We carry to you the burdens of our lives, our individual concerns, and our concern for others. (silent individual prayers) God of hope and peace, thank you for hearing our prayers. Amen

Hymn: 672 VU, Take Time to Be Holy

Our Response**Offering, Doxology (VU 540)**

Grant us God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn: 87 VU, I Am the Light of the World

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude

† † †

The Life and Work of the Congregation December 27th, 2009

Good morning and 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.

Thank you Joyce Picklyk for leading the worship service today.

Thank you to Qi Ying for providing us with music this Sunday.

This morning:

Head usher: Peggy Amy

Ushering and greeting: Peter Geres
Davis Morrison

Lift Operator and greeter: Peter Geres

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Marilyn Sagi in honour of her grand niece, Brooklyn, on her 6th birthday.

Sunday, January 10th the Christmas decorations will be put away. Please plan to stay after coffee for a short while, if you can, and help take down and pack away the decorations.

Norm's vacation will run from December 21/2009 to January 2/2010 inclusive (except for December 24). Leave a message at 343-6085 if you need assistance and someone will return your call.

Advanced Notice: Bethel UCW will hold their General and Unit Meetings on Thursday, January 7th, at 1:30 p.m. in the gym.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast: There will be no breakfast meeting in Jan. 2010. The next meeting will be Sat., Feb. 6th.

Annual Reports - Please submit your annual reports to the main office as soon as possible. It will be very much appreciated, if you could get this information in quickly.

The main office will re-open on **Tues., Dec. 29, 2009** at **8:30 am** to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm (regular office hours) and will remain open for the 30th & 31st. It will be closed again on Jan. 1, 2010 and will re-open Jan. 5, 2010.

Bible Study will resume on Wed., January 13, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the gym. Come early for coffee, if you can.

Norm will be taking the service at Extendicare at 2:30 p.m. on January 3, 2010, anyone who can join us is more than welcome.

A Head Usher for Jan. 3/2010 is required, please don't forget to sign the sheet on the table in the narthex, if you can help out for Sunday morning worship.

Other Church and Community Events:

Paradox and Paradiqm – Spirituality in a Quantum Universe – A Winter Retreat/Workshop at Ancient Spirals Retreat Centre (South on Hwy. 219). Hosted by Meewasin Valley United Church and held on Jan. 29-31, 2010. Registration deadline is Jan. 24. For more information call 931-4006. Information and registration form is posted.

Christmas Greetings from Moderator Mardi Tindal for December 2009.

I trust that deep joy in the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is warming your soul and spreading throughout your community. Mardi has a Christmas video message which you can view at:
(www.united-church.ca/communications/news/moderator/091216)
She has just returned from Copenhagen where she participated with other leaders in the World Council of Churches in the events of the climate change conference. There are a number of short videos about their involvement at COP15, check out: www.youtube.ca/unitedchurchofcanada
You can read more of her email; it is posted.

Third Annual United Band Blast – The worship bands from Grace-Westminster, McClure, St. Martin's and Meewasin Valley United Churches are gathering for an evening of music, food, and warm Saskatchewan hospitality. Prepare to blast your winter blues away on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Grace-Westminster United Church (505 – 10th Street East). Admission is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students, under 10 years is free. All funds collected will be donated to River Bend Integrated Community Ministries.

Oxfam Canada - located at 416 – 21st Street E., Suite 200, Saskatoon, SK - thanks anyone who has contributed to them in 2009. If you are interested and would like to know more you can check out their website at: <http://www.oxfam.ca> or for more information email lisaf@oxfam.ca

McClure Place Association Inc. is looking for a casual cook who would be responsible, with one or two assistants for preparing the noon meal for 21 residents and the evening meal for approximately 30 – 60 residents. The hours of the two cook shifts would be 10:30 am to 6:30 pm and 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. They are looking for someone to start a.s.a.p. A Food Safe certificate is required and cooking experience would be an asset. See posted information in the gym if you are interested.

Scripture readings for next Sunday, January 3rd:

Genesis 1:1-5 *(of the Old Testament)*
John 1:1-5, 9-14 *(of the New Testament)*

Stewardship Seconds 2009 - December 27th:

Sometimes bearing with another person and the difficulties they cause is the greatest gift we can give them.

**Happy New Year
Everyone!**