



South Regina United Community

December 21, 2023



*Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,
is an Affirming community of faith.
All are welcome here.*

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 9)

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

All: on those who lived in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

One: For the yoke that was weighing them down, and the burden upon their shoulders,

All: You have broken to pieces O God, our Renewer.

Opening Prayer

Hymn VU#55 In the Bleak Midwinter

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

Candle Lighting

A candle for those we've lost in our community:

John 11:32-26

Marjorie Wakabayashi
John Ironside
Mildred Harper
Tessa Whyte
Lynne Switzer-Geesen
Celia Ricker
Dale Johnston
Ruth Maw
Maurice Filson
Ferne Robb
Verna Bridge
Don Humbert
Sandy Potter
Anne Walker
Evelyn Atcheson
Florence Carter
Lawrence Switzer
Don Bennett

A candle for those who've experienced war: Isaiah 2: 2-5

A candle for those who've experienced loss and change:

Luke 6:20-23

A candle for healing: Psalm 121

One: I will lift up mine eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

All: My help comes from God who made heaven and earth.

One: God will not suffer your foot to be moved. The one who keeps you will not slumber.

All: Behold the one who keeps Israel shall not slumber or sleep.

One: The holy one is your keeper. The Holy one is your shade on your right hand.

All: The sun shall not hurt you by day nor the moon by night.

One: Our God shall preserve you from all evil and shall preserve your soul.

All: Our God shall preserve your going out and; your coming in from this time forth and even for evermore.

Time for others to light their own candles of remembrance and yearning

Prayer

**Sung Response VU#1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel¹
(vs. 1, 6, 7)**

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

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

**O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

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

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace.**

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

Hymn VU#68 All Poor Ones and Humble²

**All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
come hastening, and feel not afraid;
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
in lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him**

**laid rich gifts around him,
yet oxen they gave him their hay,
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;
contented in manger he lay.**

**Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise;
whose love still is able to show us that stable,
where softly in manger he lies.**

**The Christ Child will lead us, the Good Shepherd feed us
and with us abide till his day.**

**Then hatred he'll banish; then sorrow will vanish,
and death and despair flee away.**

**And he shall reign ever, and nothing shall sever
from us the great love of our King;
his peace and his pity shall bless his fair city;
his praises we ever shall sing.**

**Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise;
whose love still is able to show us that stable,
where softly in manger he lies.**



Minister: Rev. Jim Tenford (he/him)

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her) **Pianist:** Shirley Hill (she/her)

Audio/Visual Technician: Bonnie Tudor (she/they)



¹ Words: Church Pension Fund. Music: Public Domain. Arrangement: Concordia Publishing House. Translation: AUVIDIS (Fleurus).

² Words (v 1): Oxford University Press. (v 2): Dr. W.T. Pennar Davies. Music: Public Domain. Harmony: Hope Publishing Company.

