



South Regina United Community

December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve Service



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

Hymn VU#60 O Come, All Ye Faithful

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

One: The time has come, can you see it?

All: We see a star leading us to the promised miracle.

One: The time has come, can you smell it?

All: We smell the humility of a barn, animals and straw.

One: The time has come, can you taste it?

All: The taste of sand and grit accumulated on our long journey to this moment.

One: The time has come, can you feel it?

**All: We feel the presence of God in this time and place,
the God of Abraham and Sarah,
the God of the unnamed and unfriended,
the God of King David,
the God of the poor and outcast,
the God who became known in a child!**

One: Let us pray:

**All: God of new birth, we gather this evening to
celebrate the birth of your son Jesus. While we
hear the stories written so long ago, remind us that
the birth of this child can happen today in the
hearts of anyone who hears his words and follows
the path he taught. Inspire us to sing songs
heartily, praise with abandon and love as you love -
without end.**

We pray to you who is

our mother and 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
trespasses**

as we forgive those who trespass against us,

**and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from
evil;**

**for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn VU#59 Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

**Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Advent Candle Lighting

Hymn VU#64 O Little Town of Bethlehem

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.**

No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Scripture Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn VU#47 Still, Still, Still¹

**Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.
The Christchild in his crib lies sleeping,
angels round him watch are keeping.
Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.**

**Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep,
while Mary sings and gently holds you,
safely in her arms enfolds you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus softly sleep.**

**Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!
For through God's holy incarnation
Christ is born for our salvation.
Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!**

Scripture Luke 2:1-14

Anthem

Reflection

Hymn VU#48 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,**

God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'

Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'

One: God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up our hearts.

All: **We lift our hearts in prayer.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Loving God, source of all, we thank you and praise you with our lips and with our lives, that having created us and all things through your holy Word, you welcome our prayer and praise.

All: **For all your blessings, for the birth of Jesus who shows us the way to you, for the surprise of finding**

the miraculous in the ordinary, for the chance to celebrate new birth within the hearts and minds of every person, every day we praise you.

One: With all that is, seen and unseen, and with all the faithful of every time and place, we join in these words of thanksgiving:

All: **Holy, holy, holy God, power of life and love! Heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna through the ages! Blest is the one who comes to bring justice to your earth!**

Prayers

Sharing of the Feast

Hymn VU#67 Silent Night, Holy Night

**Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Blessing and Sending



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)



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