



South Regina United Community

December 24, 2023



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

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Time

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer *(Adapted from Isaiah 6:6-7)*

One: May the love of God be with you all,

All: And also with you.

One: A child is born to us! A son is given to us!

**All: And he will be our ruler. He will be called,
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Parent,
Prince Of Peace.**

One: His royal power will continue to grow;

All: His realm will always be at peace.

One: He will rule as King David's successor,

**All: Basing his power on right and justice, from now
until the end of time. The Lord Almighty is
determined to do all this.**

One: Let us pray:

**All: God of all wisdom, we come to this place looking
for the star that leads us to the side of the coming
baby. We wait with anticipation for the new life that
Jesus will bring. We wait with joy for the
celebrations that will accompany Christ's arrival.
We wait with humility for the one who will be an
example for all humanity. We wait with hope for the
baby that will bring new life and a closer
understanding and relationship with you, our
loving parent.**

**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#9 People, Look East¹

**People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.**

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.**

Advent Candle Lighting

Hymn VU#6 A Candle Is Burning² (v. 1 -4)

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is night.**

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

**A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

Scripture Psalm 96 (*Responsive*)

Sing to God a new song;

sing your praise, all the earth.

Sing and bless God's holy name,

tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

**Declare God's glory among the nations,
among all the peoples God's wonderful works.**

For great is God and greatly to be praised,

to be revered above all the gods.

**For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but you, O God, made the heavens.**

Honour and majesty attend you,

strength and beauty are in your sanctuary.

Sing a new song unto God

who has done such marvelous things.

Ascribe to God, you families of peoples,

ascribe to God glory and strength.

**Ascribe glory to God's name,
bring an offering and enter God's courts.**

Worship God in the beauty of holiness,
and let the whole earth stand in awe.

Say among the nations: It is God who reigns!
The world is made firm and cannot be shaken.
God judges the peoples in equity.

**Sing a new song unto God
who has done such marvelous things.**

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the fields exult, and all that is in them.

Then let all the trees of the forest sing for joy,
for you come, O God, to judge the earth.

**You shall judge the earth in righteousness,
its peoples with your truth.**

**Sing a new song unto God
who has done such marvelous things.**

Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn VU#74 What Child Is This

**What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain **This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.**

Refrain **This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

Refrain **This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

Message

Hymn **VU#68 All Poor Ones and Humble³**

**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.**

Refrain **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.**

Refrain **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.**

Minute for Mission

Sung Response VU#55 In the Bleak Midwinter (v. 4)

**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.**

Prayers for the World

Hymn VU#62 Once in Royal David's City⁴

**Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven
who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

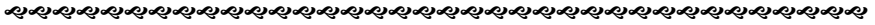
**For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

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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