



SUNSET UNITED CHURCH

ADVENT 2010

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Ministry Team: Russell Mitchell-Walker & Kathy Platt



ADVENT SCRIPT

Advent Reflection by Kathy Platt

One of the carols written for the “Buy Nothing Christmas” project is to the tune of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*. The first verse says:

Slow down ye frantic shoppers, for there’s something we must say
If you would spare a moment all the stores would go away
Big business has been telling us what Christmas means today...
But it’s time we decided for ourselves, for ourselves
Yes, it’s time we decided for ourselves!

It would be lovely if we truly could shut out all the chaotic messages around us that pull us into a frenzy of spending too much and eating too much. There are some who dread Christmas because of those memories of Christmases past that have been painful for a variety of reasons – grief; conflict, addictions, isolation/alienation from family or friends. So, what will this season of Advent – this walking towards Christmas – be about for you this year? I encourage you to be intentional about this journey – listen to your heart and sort out those things that will be life-giving for you and for those with whom you journey. I know that life is full, and that the weather is rather frosty these days – but maybe you could clear your calendar and join us for one of the Christmas quiet evenings in December (see the description later in the Script). Maybe this is the year that you think of someone who otherwise would be alone, and you invite them to join you for a cup of tea or a bowl of soup. Maybe this is the year where you take up knitting, or you write some Christmas cards with personal handwritten notes in them, or you try out a new recipe that you haven’t had time to make before. What is it that will nourish your soul and remind you of the incredibly precious gift of life itself?

Ann Weems, in her book, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, writes these words to encourage us to dream about doing our best to live into the Christmas spirit...

*The Christmas Spirit is that hope which tenaciously clings
To the hearts of the faithful and announces
In the face of any Herod the world can produce*

*And in the face of all the inn doors slammed in our faces
And in the face of all the dark nights of our souls
That with God all things are still possible,
And even now – unto us – a Child is born!*

My hope and my prayer for you for this journey towards Christmas is that you will allow yourself the space to find a kneeling place to be still and to re-discover the possibility and the reality of hope in your own heart, and in the heart of the community around you.

Blessed be!
Kathy

Sunset Calendar



December 5 – White Gift Sunday – led by Sunday School
(Donations of warm clothing, and personal care items for infants and children to be donated to Rainbow Youth Centre)

December 6, 9, 14 & 16 – Four evenings of Christmas Quiz
(For descriptions see below)

December 12 – A regular Christmas service focusing on planting the seeds and trusting that even the desert will eventually bloom and rejoice

December 19 – Baptism will be celebrated, as well as enjoying the music ministry of our choir for their annual Christmas service.

Tuesday, December 21 – **Longest Night/Blue Christmas service** – an evening where we gather to light candles in memory of those who are not with us this Christmas – an evening where we light candles to remind us that we have a community that will hold the faith when our own hearts are struggling to find a place of hope or of peace. The service will be from 7:00 – 7:45, followed by a time of tea and refreshments.

December 24 – Family Service – 4:30 pm
Communion Service – 9:00 pm



December 26 - **Boxing Day Worship** at 10:30 with Coffee and Muffins. Bring items for the food bank or Carmichael Outreach. We will box them up during the service in the tradition of Boxing Day as we experience the second day of Christmas in story, scripture and song.

Russell will be on call from December 26 – 31, and Kathy will be on call from January 1 – 7.

The office will be closed from noon on December 23 to January 4

Four evenings to “take care of the soul”
An invitation to re-claim the intent of the Christmas season



I am inviting you to come and join me for four distinct evenings, the focus of which will be to slow the pace, and to re-discover how to prepare our heart and soul for this Christmas season. In order that we might have a sense of numbers, we are asking you to sign up, either by e-mailing Kathy directly, or by signing your name to the sign-up sheets at the back of the sanctuary.

Monday, December 6: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Leadership: Shirley Hill and Kathy Platt
“Peruse or snooze” – an opportunity to listen to gentle piano pieces played by Shirley, and, as you listen, to let your heart, mind and soul wander where they will. We will have about an hour of music, with a variety of readings you can peruse if you so choose – or you can close your eyes, and drift or snooze! We will finish the evening with tea and refreshments and a time for visiting. This is **not** a concert, but rather an opportunity to allow music to tend to those frazzled places in our soul that need some soothing.

Thursday, December 9: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Leadership: Rabbi Jeremy Parnes
“Unclench our hearts, and invite the intent of the season” – Jeremy will help us to sing some melodies and to pray together. His invitation is to see what happens when we unclench those areas of our soul that hold the stress and allow ourselves to feel the blessing of all that is Holy. Again, the evening will close with tea and refreshments.

Tuesday, December 14: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.; Leadership: Daniel Dumont
“A little cup of now – No milk or sugar, Please”. Tasting the Holy of the NOW... This time together will focus on feeling the now from “inside out”. Using all our senses, you are invited to take some time to notice, perhaps in a very different way, the outside world. As you do so, you are invited to also notice body sensations and inner shifts that come with this intentional awareness. Tea and refreshments are very much part of the experience of refreshing body and soul together.

Thursday, December 16: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m; Leadership: Kelly Warden & Russell Mitchell-Walker
The Enneagram is an ancient spiritual symbol that was brought to the modern world by George Gurdjieff who developed a system of sacred movements based on the Enneagram's promise of personal transformation. Through these sacred movements, we experience "Presence" through the alignment of the three centres that make us human; our body centre, our heart centre and our head centre. Come and experience "Presence" in this season of darkness as we learn and perform together the simple and sacred body prayer named: “Hymn to the Sun”.

Note: No dance experience required! This is NOT "So You Think You Can Dance"! The movements are manageable for a variety of abilities.

Upcoming Christian Education events:



School's Out program – Dec 3 - 9-3:30pm

This is a chance for school age children to come and have fun together doing activities with an Advent theme. There is no cost but we are welcoming white gift donations. Please bring a lunch. Snacks will be provided. We are still looking for volunteers to help with crafts and kitchen duties.

White Gift Service - Dec 5

Please note the display set up and the most wanted list in the sanctuary. These items go to Rainbow Youth for their Christmas event.

Hot Diggity Dog lunch – Jan 16

Please plan to stay after church for hot dogs and a time to converse with those who share the same birthday month.

Lifelines Book Display – We will be setting up the book display the week of Feb 26/11. If there are any books you would like to see there, please let us know.

Shrove Tuesday – March 8 - Once again we will be having our pancake supper hosted by Explorers and TGIF.

Submitted by Shari Powers
Christian Education chair



The Sunset Ladies Fellowship
Invite you to their Christmas Tea, Craft
& Bake Sale

Featuring: Dainty Trays
Saturday, December 11, 2010
10 am - 1 pm

Free Admission

(Baking & craft donations will be gratefully accepted on or
before Friday, December 10 at the church)

SUNSET LADIES FELLOWSHIP
Invite you to their
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK
At 5:30 pm on
Monday, December 13, 2010.

Bring your favourite dish and enjoy fellowship
and an Inspirational message by Wynne Edwards.
Our Christmas donation will be to Rainbow Youth.





Sunset Ladies Fellowship invite all women of the congregation to consider being part of our group. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 1:30 pm, with the exception of stat holidays when we meet the 1st Monday. Our monthly meetings consist of a business meeting and speakers on a variety of topics. We do some fundraising during the year but our emphasis is on fellowship. Come out and see if this is for you. Contact Jessie at 586-0211 or Joan at 586-5737.



Bible Study & Prayer Group

Another Advent! Another Script! So what have we done!

Praying and studying with joy. We are studying 52 women of the Bible from Eve to Mary, Mother of Jesus to Pricilla. It is proving to be a vey good study with lots of discussions.

Our prayers are many and we do see God has answered many favourably. We thank God for a successful and fulfilling study. We always welcome new members.

Dorene Mentiplay

Feeling the winter blues? Spending too much money this holiday season?



Well..... **Saturday January 29th 7:00 p.m.** start the New Year with an affordable fun evening featuring "Squeeze of Scotch" We will do some dancing, laughing, eating and visiting. This is a family event so bring the kids. The tickets will go on sale sometime in January. \$15.00 a family. We will also have a "special dessert" during intermission. All profits will go to the church.

Trivia Night

The Fundraising Committee will be hosting a Trivia Night February 26, at 7pm. Form a team, (\$10/person/team) and put your brain to the test!! Judged by a 'celebrity' panel. All ages welcome. Watch the bulletin for further details.



Script Delivery by email/website:

We are so grateful to our Sunset team who faithfully deliver the Script to your door about 5 times a year. However, we would like to be more "environmentally friendly." We ask any Sunset folk who are willing to receive their Script by email to let us know. (susetunited.office@sasktel.net) or call Nora at the office at 586-3613. The Script is also posted on our website.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Budget

Expenditures (estimated) to December 31, 2010	\$253,000
Revenue to November 30, 2010	<u>217,010</u>
Funds needed to December 31	\$ 35,990
December PAR commitment	<u>9,500</u>
Additional Non-PAR Revenue needed to balance Operating budget	\$ 26,490

Missions & Services Voluntary Contributions

M & S Collections target	\$ 11,000
M & S Voluntary Givings and Fund Raising to November 30	<u>5,378</u>
Additional collections needed to reach target	\$ 5,622

As outlined above we can balance our 2010 operating budget with non-PAR revenue of about \$26,500 in the four weeks to December 31, 2010.

We can also reach our M & S Voluntary contribution target of \$11,000 with an additional \$5,622.

December 1, 2010

MERRY CHRISTMAS &
A HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!!



