

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

17 Royal Rd. S., Portage la Prairie, MB. R1N 1T8

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Interim Moderator: **Laura Hargrove**

hargrove@mymts.net 204-727-5874 (church) or 204-573-4360 (cell)

Organist: **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt**

Clerk of Session: **Raymond Reichelt**

We acknowledge that we are in Treaty 1 territory, and that the land is the traditional lands of the Anishinabe and Dakota Nations, and the homeland of the Métis Nation

ANNOUNCEMENTS SHEET

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3 December 2023

Welcome! We extend a warm welcome to our guests, and invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to remain for coffee and fellowship, downstairs in the Church Hall, following the service. We thank **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt** for hosting today.

The Greeters this morning are **Lalaine and Ruth Buan**.

The Reader today is **Ruth Buan**.

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 64.1-9

Psalms 80.1-7; 17-19

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Mark 18.24-37

This Week in First Church:

- Sunday, December 3 (today) - Trimming of the Church and tree **after** lunch. Lunch will be provided
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible Study, by Zoom

Coming Up:

- 17th December - Communion Sunday
- 24th December (Christmas Eve) - Morning service only

The Christian Year - We are now in the season of **Advent**, the first of the six seasons of the Christian Year. Advent is a season of preparation for **Christmas**, the festival of the birth of Jesus, and always has four Sundays.

During Advent, we recall how the people of ancient Israel looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, a special king whom God would send to Israel, as foretold by the Old Testament prophets. This promise was eventually fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. At the same time, we look forward to the promised Second Coming of Jesus, foretold by the writers of the New Testament, and by Jesus himself.

Advent is a season of **hope** and **anticipation**, as we look forward to the day when God will complete his work of salvation — of saving humanity and the whole creation from the power of evil and sin. It is therefore also a season of **penitence**, as we look at the sin in our own lives, and try to change our ways in order to conform more closely to God's ways.

The traditional symbolic color for Advent is **purple**, which signifies preparation and penitence. Purple is also the color for Lent, the season of preparation leading up to Easter. Some churches today use the color **blue** for Advent, de-emphasizing the mood of penitence, and emphasizing the mood of anticipation and hope.

MISSION MOMENT

In Malawi, Jennifer joined a program for orphans and vulnerable children (*OVC*) supported by *PWS&D*. When she was in Grade 5, Jennifer lost both of her parents to HIV and was cared for by her great-aunt. Jennifer is also HIV positive and is undergoing treatment. Through the *OVC* program, Jennifer received training in tailoring as well as beekeeping. Now 19 years old, Jennifer has just had her first honey harvest, yielding 5 kg of honey, which she sold to buy food. Jennifer now dreams of volunteering with a local tailor, hoping to secure a paid job in the field. With the skills she learned from this program, Jennifer is able to live positively with HIV and earn a livelihood to support herself.

Today - Copies of the *Today* daily devotional booklet for November and December have been placed on the table at the back of the sanctuary

Prayer Calendars - Copies of the Prayer Calendar for December are ready to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. Don't forget your copy!

"CAROLS and BELLS"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

(this afternoon)

at 2:00 pm

ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

GOODWILL OFFERING IN AID OF
SALVATION ARMY

Light Refreshments following

Everyone Welcome