

Scrooge was

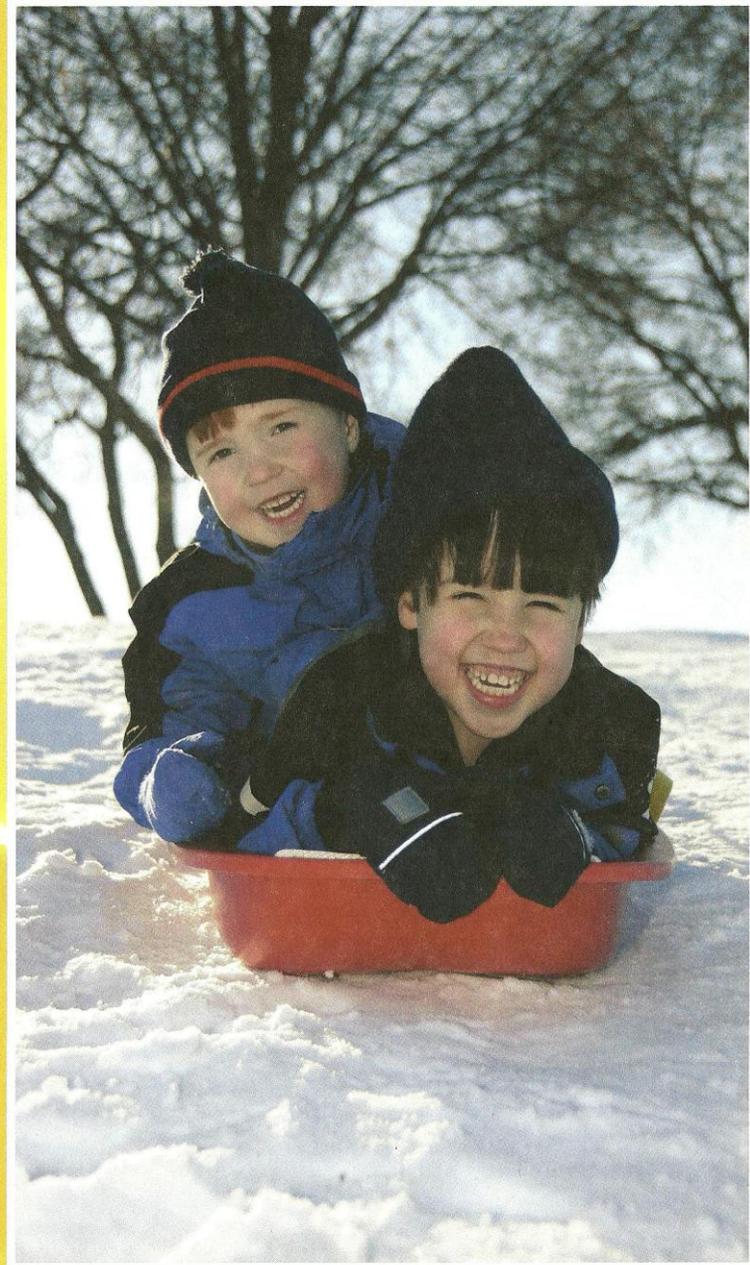
"a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!" who thought Christmas was "Humbug!" But one Christmas, Scrooge was blessed with a new spirit that clothed his life in new qualities. He showed *kindness* to his nephew in the gift of a turkey. He had a new found *compassion* for the poor and his anonymous generosity showed *humility*. He was *patient* and *forgiving* of those who ridiculed his changed demeanor. He developed a life-long *love* for the crippled Tiny Tim. And he went to church Christmas day to sing his own *spiritual songs to God*. Above all he was *grateful* for the Christmas gift that changed him forever.

The blessing of God's gift at Christmas continues to give throughout the year through the ways we live our changed lives. We are blessed to be a blessing. Let us echo Tiny Tim's prayer, "God bless us, every one!"

The Rev. Peter Coutts is General Presbyter for the Presbytery
of Calgary-Macleod, AB.



271215



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 27, 2015

1st Sunday after Christmas

Please stand at items marked * if you are able.
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison
Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Organist - Carol Wehrstedt Music Director- Kendall House

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

* Entry of the Bible

Introit

Call to Worship

* Hymn: *"See amid the winter's snow"* #168

Opening Prayer:

Creator, Christ, and Spirit; beside you there is no greater. You stir in our hearts and bring joy to our lives. You stir in our minds and bring wisdom. You stir in the world and put on flesh. You came as the Christ-child, born a baby in a cattle stall, so that we might have true, full, and everlasting life. We stir this morning and desire to praise you: We come like the shepherds to adore you and we join our voices with the angels and archangels in praising you. Our minds have been distracted from the core meaning of this season by preparations, gifts, and meals. Still our hearts and our minds and prepare us for this time together. May this time of worship be our precious gift to you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

* Children's Hymn: *"'Twas in the moon of wintertime"* #144
(last verse to be sung after Children's Time)

Children's Time

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation 119 (v. 3)

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Saviour is born.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

"Be Still and Know that
I am God" (Ps. 46: 10)

Please take the time before
the service as an opportunity
to quietly prepare your heart
and mind for worship.

Bible Readings:

Psalms 148 P. 582 & 583 O.T.

Gloria Patri:

594

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

CAROLS AND REFLECTIONS

(Source: Collins, Ace. *Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas: Unabridged.* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2010. Kindle Edition.)

Hymn: #133 - *"Go, tell it on the mountain"*

Reflection

Hymn: #146 - *"Angels from the realms of glory"*

Reflection

Hymn: #161- *"What child is this"*

Reflection

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory Response (#145 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 him my heart.

Prayer of Dedication

King of Kings, we join the angels in singing your unending praise. You alone created the universe in all of its glory. We present these gifts knowing that they will be transformed into ministries of Good News. Bless this offering so our giving honours your glory. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debtsdebtors)

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

* Hymn: *"The first nowell"* #136

Blessing

Response: 168 v.5

Sacred infant, all divine, of God's tender love the sign,
for you came from highest bliss, down to such a world as this!
Hail, O ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.



Upcoming Events at First

Mon., Dec. 28th - **cancelled** Cards afternoon
 Sun., Jan. 3rd Communion Service
 Tues., Jan 5th - More than Mission - 1 pm



Thank you this week to:

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving
Lay Reader: Susan Mattinson
Fellowship Time: Edna Irwin and Sharon Irwin
Elevator Operator: Cameron Noy
Offering Counting: Lynae Grace and Myrna Grace
Offering Collection: R. Brown, J. Nystrom, J. Taylor. B. Seabrook
Visiting/Phoning: Edna Lamb

Next week's volunteers: Jan. 3rd

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving
Lay Reader: Lynae Grace
Fellowship Time: Ruth George and Debbie Linkletter
Elevator Operator: _____
Offering Counting: Alice & Laird Morrison and Linda Rydholm
Offering Collection: R. Brown, J. Nystrom, J. Taylor. B. Seabrook
Visiting/Phoning: Edna Lamb

January 16th at 5:30 pm:



The Fellowship Committee invites all members of all four local Presbyterian Churches to a Family Games Night and Potluck at First



Body, Mind and Soul – Study Guide on Human Sexuality

Please join us for a series of studies on Human Sexuality at 10:00am on Jan. 23, Jan. 30, and Feb. 6. The Presbyterian Church in Canada's study guide "Body, Mind, and Soul" is available as a free PDF at:

<http://presbyterian.ca/sexuality/> A printed version can be ordered from the Resource Centre (1-800-619-7301) for \$10.00. If you would like us to order a copy for you for \$10.00, please notify the church office (623-0717) by January 6th, so we can ensure that your copy gets to you no later than Sunday January 17th. Please make cheques payable to Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Rev. Susan will be away from January 4th to 11th. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Ken Haggerty at 622-9536. Pulpit supply on January 10th is Ann MacDonald.

NOTICE:

all annual reports must be submitted to the office no later than January 19, 2016. Email submission for cut and paste purposes

Visiting regularly? Would you like Sunday Offering Envelopes or to participate in our automatic banking program? Please speak to the church's envelope secretary, Sandy Allan. Either choice will make it easier for us to track your donations and provide an accurate tax receipt at the end of the year. Thank you for your support.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission purpose is to put our faith into action through mission education, community outreach, and personal and financial support both at home and abroad.



Thank you so much to everyone who donates to the Food Bank.