



The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

St. Andrew's United Church



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Sunday, December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent - Love

St. Andrew's United Church is a Christian community that shares Christ's love through worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and outreach.



Worship Leader: Rev. Charlene Maguire MacKnight

Organist and Choir Director: Lois McKinnon

Greeters: Judy & Don Bowman

Love

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

Sunday Worship Service

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

*Stand as you are able.

Musical Prelude

Greeting

Introit: VU 2, Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus (vs. 1)

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee**

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: ***Karen Rose***

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the Love Candle, also known as the Angel's Candle. This candle represents the love God demonstrated in sending His Son to the world and reminds us of the angelic message proclaiming Christ's birth to the shepherds. The angel announced that Jesus came out of God's great love for humanity, fulfilling His promise to redeem us.

Candle is lit as we sing: 'We Light this Candle'

**We light this candle for love.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
so love can find a way,
so love can find a way.**

Call to Worship:

L: We are waiting on you, God. We are still waiting.

P: The darkness is deeper, but look! The star is beginning to shine. The everlasting light is creeping closer.

L: Hope is in the air. Peace is promised. Joy is on the tips of our

tongues. Love is coming. Love divine, all loves excelling.

P: We are waiting on love. And Love is waiting on us.

Opening Prayer:

O God, how wonderful you are, how full of mystery are your ways, how great is your love. We gather to ponder in our hearts the mystery of our faith, eager to hear the message of Christ's coming among us. In this near-the-end of Advent time, we are busy with our celebrations and preparations. Help us to slow down and remember. Remind us again of the life-changing coming of your Chosen One. Forgive us when shopping, presents, parties, and other preparations get in the way of honouring you. Fill us with expectancy and hope, we pray, and as we await with wonder the birth of Christ, give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.

*Hymn: VU 62, Once in Royal David's City

Time with the Children and the Young at Heart

We Hear the Word Proclaimed

Prayer of Illumination: *Jennifer Walker*

In the reading of scripture, open our hearts and minds to your presence, O God, and direct us in these final days of our Advent journey that we might go forward with love. Amen.

Responsive Reading: VU 898, Refrain 1 (*Luke 1:47-55*)

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 (*The angel Gabriel visits Mary*)

Choir Anthem: ***“Were You There on That Christmas Morning?”***

Reflection

*Hymn: VU 46, Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

We Respond

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Choral Offertory: VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter (vs.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.**

Offertory Prayer:

**Waiting, watching God, we have heard your call to give
ourselves in love. We answer that call with these, the fruits of
our labours, and the gift of our lives. Through our offering,
may others know blessings of hope, peace, joy, and love. In
your holy name we pray. Amen.**

Announcements of the Life and Work of the Church – **Holly Daley**

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

*Communion Hymn: VU 457, As We Gather at Your Table

Communion Prayer:

Glory to God in the highest!
And on earth, peace to all!

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, God of majesty and mystery. From the dawn of creation to the fullness of time, you seek us out. We thank you that you have come to us in Emmanuel, your Word made flesh; and that you are revealed to us in stable warmth and birthing cry. With those who received good news of great joy in Jesus' birth so long ago, we, too, come this day rejoicing and proclaiming your praise:

Sung – VU 37

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Gathered around this table, we remember Jesus whose coming we await as tiny babe adored by shepherds and heralded by angel song. We give thanks that this Bethlehem baby did not stay in a manger, but grew to be the One who, through stories and teaching, miracles and healing, and by his very example, witnessed to life in the Kingdom of God.

**He confronted the powers of evil, befriended the unlovely,
spoke words of wisdom and truth, and proclaimed the coming
of your new community.**

He was arrested, mocked, beaten, put to death on a cross, and laid in a tomb.

But death could not hold him. His Spirit of life and love is with us still!

We recall that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said, "Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Each time you do this, remember me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This cup is sign of the new covenant which God makes with you in my blood. As often as you drink it, do so in remembrance of me."

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for the fulfillment of that kingdom which he proclaimed.

In praise and thanksgiving, we offer ourselves to you that in our lives we may live the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this loaf and cup may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world. In this hope and as your people, we praise you, joining our voices together as Jesus taught:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Breaking of the Bread and Blessing of the Cup

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion:

God of darkness and light, as we prepare once more for the celebration of your coming among us in Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, the One who is light for the world, we give thanks for the blessing of sharing in this holy meal. Having been nourished at the table of Jesus Christ, may we go forth ...

- **with hands of encouragement and comfort;**
- **with ears attentive to the cries of those who need to sense in us your presence;**
- **with mouths to speak light and life to darkness and despair.**
- **with hearts alert to opportunities to share your love, and with souls at peace, trusting in your grace. Amen.**

*Hymn: VU 7, Hope Is a Star

*Commissioning & Benediction:

You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day, by the things that you do and the things that you say. Folk read what you write whether phony or true. Pray, what is the gospel according to you?

The gospel we carry, in which we delight, is the gospel of Jesus, the gospel of light. It's the gospel of caring and self-giving love that comes to us all as a gift from above.

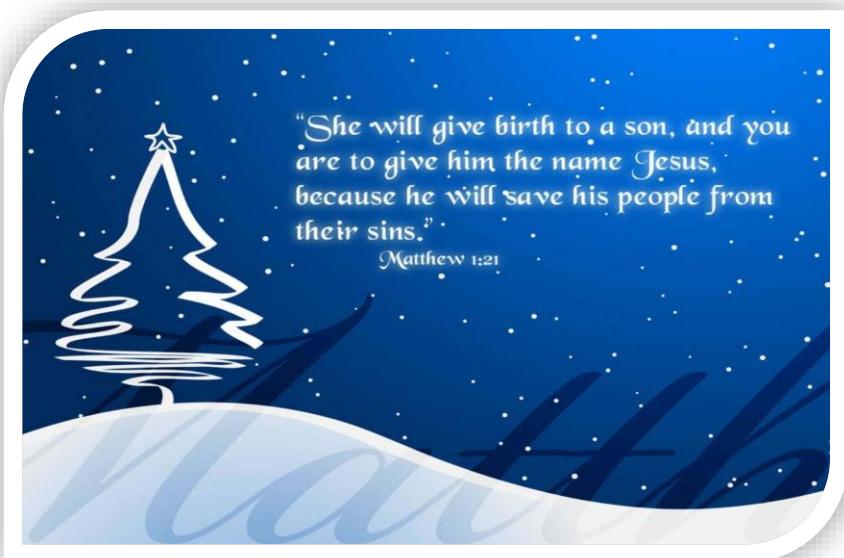
Go forth now to be the hands of God-who-is-Love. Be in the world as friends to all. May God's blessing go with you and may peace and joy fill your hearts!

Amen.

*Choral Closing: VU 64, O Little Town of Bethlehem, vs.4

**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.**

Musical Postlude



Announcements

Memorials:

In loving memory of **Alice, John & Callum MacPhee**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Marjorie MacPhee.

Greeters: **Dec. 24th** – Brian & Joan Savoy/**Dec. 28th** – Brian & Davida Adams

▪ **Sound System:** **Dec. 21** – Don Bowman/**Dec. 28** – Paul Rose

▪ **PowerPoint:** **Dec. 21** – Jennifer Walker/**Dec. 24th** – Karen Rose/**Dec. 28** – Barry Campbell

▪ **Offering Collectors:** **Dec. 21** – Patty Deitch, Cynthia Duplessie, Dennis & Judy Morrison/**Dec. 24** – Debbie Stymiest, Carol Johnston, Ernie & Ferne MacLean/**Dec. 28** – Helen Jones, Brian & Joan Savoy, Jeanne Breau

▪ **Offering Counters:** **Dec. 21** – Brian & Joan Savoy/**Dec. 24-** Karen Rose & Barry Campbell/**Dec. 28** – Carol Johnston & Marj MacPhee

▪ **Weekly Collection:**

Collection on Sunday, Dec. 14 th	\$ 905.00
Weekly Par Collection	<u>\$ 1,259.00</u>
Total for Week of Dec. 14th	\$ 2,164.00

This Week:

Christmas Eve Service – 6:30 p.m. - Daniel Szemok, LLWL

Upcoming:

Sunday, December 28th – 11:00 a.m. – Daniel Szemok, LLWL

**We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of the bulletins in
loving memory of Hallam Curtis by Donna, Coralie & Matt.**



Online St. Andrew's United Church
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