

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

December 22, 2019

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

A warm welcome to all who have joined us for worship today.

Please note this is a scent free environment.

(*please rise in body or spirit)

Prelude: "Once in Royal David's City" - H. Gauntlett, arr. J. Althouse

Welcome, Announcements & Lighting of the Candles

**Gathering Hymn: VU 2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

**Centering Time for Worship*

Standing in the Presence of God

**Invitation to Community*

We stand in the presence of the Divine

For we are one blessed people

We gather so our prayers will be answered

But we must be careful what we pray for

We now stretch closer to the manger

Desperate to touch the incarnated one

**Gathering Prayer*

Great Spirit, we marvel and are burdened that those things which existed two thousand years ago are still with us this day: hunger, discrimination, poverty, war. As we gather to celebrate the Prince of Peace, we ask that you disturb us to use our faith and our talents to proclaim love to all of creation. In the Name of Jesus, Prince of Peace, we make this prayer. Amen.

Hymn: MV 11 "Come, Come Emmanuel"

Advent Candle Liturgy: The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Reader 1: Today we light the fourth Candle in our Advent Wreath. When we think of candles we often think of romantic dinners, soft lighting,

quiet and peace. So, as we light this candle of love, we must remember to carry its soft glow in our hearts and in our souls.

Reader 2: And today we bring angels to our nativity scene. One story of the birth of Jesus, angels are present, singing and offering adoration and love. But in the Sacred Writings, angels are messengers from the Divine. In what we say, and in what we do, we must remember that we too are messengers.

Advent Hymn: VU 6 “A Candle is Burning” vs 4

**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.**

Candles of Joy and Concern

In the Days of King Herod...

Preparation for Proclamation:

Prepare the Way, Prepare the Way.

Awaited Christ expected one.

We will await, we will await.

The birth of God's own son. X2 - A. Gray

Scriptures:

Reader: David Stephenson

Psalms 113, VU 835

Luke 1.5-25, 57-80

Special Music: “I Wonder as I Wander” – John Jacob Niles

solo: Shelly Joyes

Reflection:

Response: VU 5 “All Earth Is Waiting” vs 4

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.

Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,

for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;

again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

With the Spirit and the Power of Elijah

Offering: "Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" - arr. Lani Smith

**Hymn of Presentation: VU 55 (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.

**Prayer of Dedication:*

**We make these offerings that we may see creation anew,
speak for the voiceless, and hope for the hopeless. Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Hymn: VU 9 "People Look East"

**Sending Forth:*

Lift the poor from the dust

For that is the prayer of too many

Remember: hope is here and now

We have only to embrace it

Choose you path carefully

May God guide our feet in the way of peace.

**Concluding Rite: MV 20 "God of Still Waiting" vs 4*

Word true and faithful, Hope-bringing Spirit, God of enfolding Love:

Come in Your fullness and grace;

Work through our lives for Your praise.

Postlude: "Sing Noel: A Christmas Fanfare" - arr. Jay Althouse

In Appreciation

Minister: All the Congregation and Rev. Don Uhryniw

Music: Arlene Gray and the Choir

Thank You to Ushers, Greeters, Elevator monitors, Offertory Collectors and Refreshment Angels.

AV: Ted Shaw

PowerPoint: Carol Atkinson

*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada
We acknowledge that we live on the traditional territory
of the Mississauga People of the Anishnaabe Nation*