

December 19, 2021
Advent 4 – Love Sunday

Welcome

Gathering: VU 7 Hope is a Star (vs 4)

Candle of Love:

For the child leaping in Mary's womb, **we light this candle.**
For the labour required by you and by me to bring peace, **we light this candle.** For generation upon generation that need this blessing again, **we light this candle.** For the will to imagine another world is possible, **we light this candle.** For the fullness of the Holy Spirit, **we light this candle.** For the work of birth we share on Christmas, **we light this candle of love.**

****We are walking a path of love, we are walking a path of love. We are walking a path of love, lead me home, lead me home.***

Call to Worship

People of God come, for the light of love beckons us; a love which calls from the margins and the centre; from suffering and comfort; from oppression and privilege. **We too come from the margins and the centre; from suffering and comfort; from oppression and privilege.** Let us bring our love and join it to the light of love, gathering in worship to discover the greatest love there is. **Come, let us bring our love to this time and place. Let us listen and speak, sing and discern, pray and give, for now is the time to worship.**

Opening Prayer

Loving God, the prophet Mary tells us, you sent Jesus into the world to turn things upside down and right side up. As we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, help us to remember the message of Jesus: to work for justice and fairness, to bring balance to our living, to share your love with all people, and to make your reign become real, here on earth. Amen.

Hymn: VU 1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel(vs 1,2,3)

Prayers for Grace & Transformation/Words of

Assurance: We know from ancient witness that the God we worship is forgiving and loving, setting us free to love our neighbor, the world and ourselves. Thanks be to God. Amen

The Peace

Scripture

Prayer for Illumination

We Listen

Old Testament:	Malachi 5: 2-5a
Psalms	VU 794 Part One only
Gospel	Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)

****Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord! Make a straight path for him, make a straight path, prepare the way of the Lord!***

Reflection

*Christmas past and Christmas new
VU 74 & 61*

Invitation to the offering/Offertory Prayer

Doxology: Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Announcements

Prayers of Hope/Lord's Prayer

****Love shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light. You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the pathway home***

Benediction/Commissioning

Hymn: VU 1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 4-5)

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The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples. SouthWest United worships on the traditional territory of the Mohawk, members of the Six Nation Confederacy, including Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga Seneca and Tuscarora peoples.

Pastor: Beryl Barraclough, DLM
Director of Music: Sarah Fraser
Clerk of Session: Dennis Brown
Office Administrator: Amy Barratt

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Today we light the Candle of Love

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