December 19, 2021 Advent 4 – Love Sunday

#### **Welcome**

#### <u>Gathering:</u> VU 7 Hope is a Star (vs 4) <u>Candle of Love:</u>

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

ScripturePrayer for IlluminationWe ListenWe ListenOld Testament:Malachi 5: 2-5aPsalm 80VU 794 Part One onlyGospelLuke 1: 39-45 (46-55)\*Prepare the way of the Lord! Make a straight path for him, make astraight path, prepare the way of the Lord!

#### **Reflection**

*Christmas past and Christmas new* VU 74 & 61

<u>Invitation to the offering/Offertory Prayer</u> <u>Doxology</u>: Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

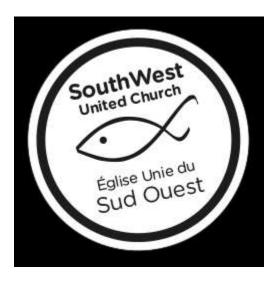
**Announcements** 

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) SouthWest United Church 1445 Clemenceau, Verdun, QC, H4H 2R2 Office/bureau: 514-768 6231 Email/courriel southwestunited@gmail.com

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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



### Today we light the Candle of Love

## **SouthWest United Church**