



HOLY TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Minister: Rev. Cory Vermeer-Cuthbert

Music: Ann Foy and the Central Avenue Bubble
(Ann, Russ, Kathy, Arlene, Alison & Sandy)

Order of Worship

ADVENT IV -- LOVE

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Welcome

A warm welcome is extended to all this morning, especially those who are worshipping at Holy Trinity for the first time. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together.

We invite you into this place and time of acceptance and light, to worship and know you are beloved and held in the divine embrace, just as you are.

WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

For thousands of years First nations people have walked in this land. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the lands represented in the Robinson-Huron Treaty 61 of 1850, the Traditional Territory of the Serpent River and Mississagi people and we acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.

Call to Worship

We come into this place to make a home for Love. We come to create a structure, to give shelter, to craft a dwelling place for the Incarnation.

God asks, “Have I ever asked for another dwelling place than in my Creation?”

We come into this place to tell the story of a woman who said, “yes”; of a manger and angels singing before frightened shepherds.

We come to celebrate the birth of the one who would teach us that his life was the beginning of new life for us all. We come to worship the God who asks us all to say “yes” to carrying that which will bring justice, mercy and peace into this world.

We come into this place to remember.

We come into this place to re-imagine our place in God’s incarnation.

Prayer of Approach

All: God love, we have gathered here this morning because we want to – we want to look into the eyes of our brothers and sisters in Christ; we want to be moved by music; we want to hear a word of encouragement; we want to be changed by your Spirit. Please hear these wants that we might go back to our homes, strengthened for the week ahead, enabled for the work that is ours. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: All Poor Ones and Humble

VU # 68

All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
 come hastening, and feel not afraid;
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
 in lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him
laid rich gifts around him,
 yet oxen they gave him their hay,
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;
contented in manger he lay.

**Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise;
whose love still is able to show us that stable,
where softly in manger he lies.**

The Christ Child will lead us, the Good Shepherd feed us
 and with us abide till his day.
Then hatred he'll banish; then sorrow will vanish,
 and death and despair flee away.
And he shall reign ever, and nothing shall sever
 from us the great love of our King;
his peace and his pity shall bless his fair city;
his praises we ever shall sing. **R**

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon



ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING LITURGY

Chorale

Responsive Liturgy

Advent is a time to praise.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's past faithfulness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's present goodness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's future promises.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Candle-lighting

This morning we light four candles.

The **first candle** reminds us that during Advent we wait upon the promises of the Lord.

The **second candle** reminds us to watch for God's presence with expectant eyes and anxious hearts.

The **third candle** reminds us to prepare ourselves to receive the gift of the promised Saviour.

As we light the **fourth candle**, we are reminded that Advent is a time to give praise for what God has done, for what God is currently doing, and for what God will bring to completion. As the light of Advent grows brighter, it reminds us that we move closer to receiving the gift of a Saviour.

Chorale

Prayer:

God in heaven, we look to you amidst a world filled with darkness. Help us to seek the light of your truth, as we remember your promises and offer our praise to you. Amen.

Sharing Peace With One Another

Hymn: Away in a Manger

VU # 69

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.



WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD SPOKEN TO US

First Reading:

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

(Good News Translation)

(Reader: Winston Cuthbert)

Nathan's Message to David

¹King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD kept him safe from all his enemies. ²Then the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Here I am living in a house built of cedar, but God's Covenant Box is kept in a tent!"

³Nathan answered, "Do whatever you have in mind, because the LORD is with you." ⁴But that night the LORD said to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David that I say to him, 'You are not the one to build a temple for me to live in. ⁶From the time I rescued the people of Israel from Egypt until now, I have never lived in a temple; I have traveled around living in a tent. ⁷In all my traveling with the people of Israel I never asked any of the leaders that I appointed why they had not built me a temple made of cedar.'

⁸"So tell my servant David that I, the LORD Almighty, say to him, 'I took you from looking after sheep in the fields and made you the ruler of my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have defeated all your enemies as you advanced. I will make you as famous as the greatest leaders in the world. ¹⁰⁻¹¹I have chosen a place for my people Israel and have settled them there, where they will live without being oppressed any more. Ever since they entered this land, they have been attacked by violent people, but this will not happen again. I promise to keep you safe from all your enemies and to give you descendants.

Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26
(Good News Translation)

A Hymn in Time of National Trouble

- ¹ O LORD, I will always sing of your constant love;
I will proclaim your faithfulness forever.
- ² I know that your love will last for all time,
that your faithfulness is as permanent as the sky.
- ³ You said, "I have made a covenant with the man I chose;
I have promised my servant David,
- ⁴ 'A descendant of yours will always be king;
I will preserve your dynasty forever.'"

God's Promise to David

- ¹⁹ In a vision long ago you said to your faithful servants,
"I have given help to a famous soldier;
I have given the throne to one I chose from the people.
- ²⁰ I have made my servant David king
by anointing him with holy oil.
- ²¹ My strength will always be with him,
my power will make him strong.
- ²² His enemies will never succeed against him;
the wicked will not defeat him.
- ²³ I will crush his foes
and kill everyone who hates him.
- ²⁴ I will love him and be loyal to him;
I will make him always victorious.
- ²⁵ I will extend his kingdom
from the Mediterranean to the Euphrates River.
- ²⁶ He will say to me,
'You are my father and my God;
you are my protector and saviour.'

Gospel Reading:

Luke 1:26-38

(NRSV)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Ministry of Music

To a Maid Whose Name was Mary

Duet by Russ & Ann Foy

Sermon: Revisiting the Story

Prayers of The Faithful

Lord's Prayer

Moment of Musical Meditation

"Maria Walks Amid the Thorn"

by Hugo Distler (based on a medieval German Carol)

Sung by Alison, Arlene, Ann

Pastoral Prayer

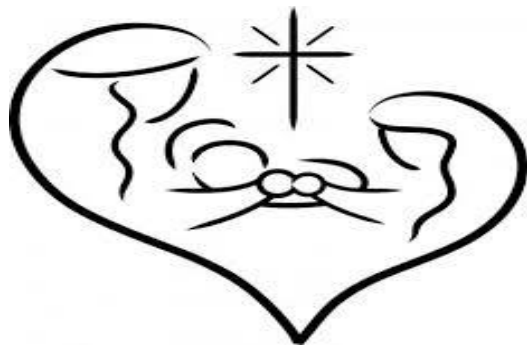
Hymn: There's a Star in the East

VU # 70

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn,
rise up, shepherd, and follow;
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born;
rise up, shepherd, and follow.

***Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow,
follow the Star of Bethlehem,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.***

If you take good heed to the angel's words,
rise up, shepherd, and follow.
you'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds;
rise up, shepherd, and follow. **R**



WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH THE SERVICE OF OUR LIVES

Minute for Mission

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Prayer

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound

VU # 29

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Commissioning and Benediction

Instrumental Benediction

Friendly Reminders

Christmas Holiday Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Dec 22nd from 9:00 am to 12noon

Tuesday, Dec 29th from 9:00 am to 12noon

Tuesday, Jan 5th and Friday, Jan 8th from 9:00 am to 12noon

Christmas Holiday Worship Services:

Christmas Eve Service - **Thursday, Dec 24th** at 7:00 pm
-online worship service link will not be available for this service

Sunday, Dec 27th – No In-Person Worship Service
-an alternate UCC online worship service link will be emailed

Sunday, Jan 3rd – Pulpit Supply – Rev. Pete Hoyle (retired)

Holy Trinity United Church Website

www.holytrinityunited.ca

Please visit the homepage of our church website where you will find worship service bulletins (uploaded the Friday prior to Sunday's service), past worship service links and sermons, Rev Cory's latest pastoral letter, Sunday worship service announcements, Mission and Service upcoming special events, and even at times, some breaking news to rival CNN.

Our continued thanks to Jo Anne Matheson for maintaining this site.

