



# Sunday Worship

Westminster United Church  
*celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community*  
Sunday December 24, 2017

Advent 4

Words printed in **bold type** are to be spoken by the congregation.

**Prelude**

**Christ Candle is lit**

## Welcome and News

**Introit** MV 1 Let Us Build a House vs. 5

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words with-in the Word.**

**Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

Words and Music: Marty Haugen, © GIA Publications 1994. All rights reserved. Reprinted under [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) #A-720863

## Call to Worship

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

**Share the Good News of God's love.**

Be the voice that cries out in the wilderness.

**Tell the story of God's invitation to journey to the place where good news is  
born and God's love is revealed.**

The place of hope, peace, joy and love.

**Let us worship.**

**Hymn** VU 36      Angels, from the Realms of Glory

**Community Connection** – Who or what are you grateful for this week?

**Advent Video** – Love\*

**Advent Candle Lighting** (Ted Barnett and Carol Latter)

In a world filled with loneliness and isolation,

**we are called to share God's love.**

This is a love that is not dependent on conditions or likes; rather,

**This is a love that is rooted in connection and generous-hearted living.**  
Grant us the courage to love others - and ourselves - as God loves us.....

(Light the 4<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle)

Let us pray:

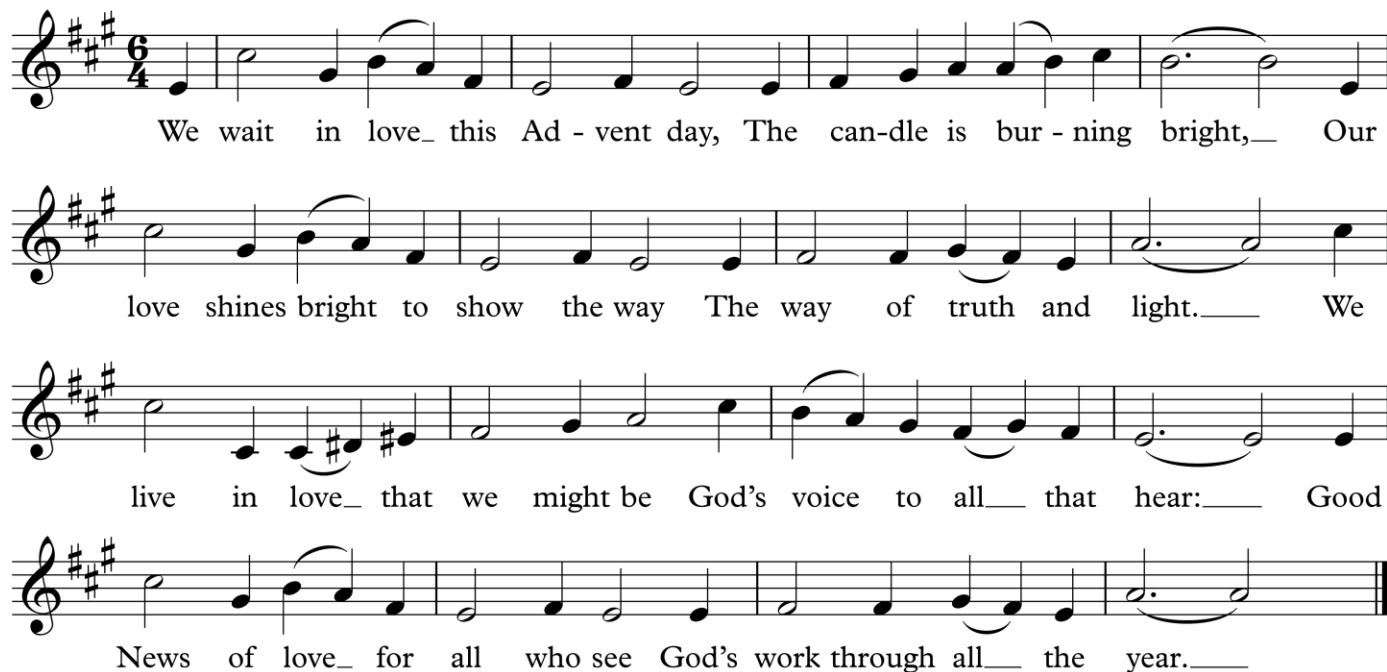
**Holy God, help us know we are loved. Help us treat ourselves and each other with love, tenderness and compassion. As we move closer and closer to Bethlehem, may your gifts of hope, peace, and joy and love inspire our lives and bring light to our world. Amen**

## Sung Response

# Advent Carol

words by  
NATHAN POOLE  
BRANDON JOHNSTON

music by RICHARD SORIS WILLIS 1850



We wait in love\_ this Ad - vent day, The can - dle is bur - ning bright, \_ Our  
love shines bright to show the way The way of truth and light. \_ We  
live in love\_ that we might be God's voice to all\_ that hear: \_ Good  
News of love\_ for all who see God's work through all\_ the year. \_

## **Prayer of Confession (unison)\*\***

**God of promises yet to come, we are not good at being patient. In our fast-paced world, we want instant results. We are overloaded by information and often tune out. In our busyness, we do not always pay attention to the special people in our lives. Help us wake up and tune into what you are trying to show us. Helps us live your vision of transformation – transformation for ourselves, transformation for our world...**

*Moment of silence for personal reflection.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Assurance\*\*\***

The angel said to Mary – all things are possible with God. When we open ourselves to God, we also find this to be true. Courage comes to our shaky knees; gladness comes to our cynical hearts.

**We find our voices, and the world is changed, and we are changed. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Anthem**      Who But the Lord?

by Craig Courtney

## **The Peace**

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Scripture Reading:**

Luke 1: 26-38

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Message

**Solo**            The Birthday of a King  
given by Nicki Kirton

by W.H. Neidlinger

## Collection of Offerings and Offertory

*After the offering is introduced, an offertory will be played and the collection taken. Thank you for your gift, whether given today or through other means of supporting ministry at Westminster Church.*

**Offertory** MV 18            Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary  
**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy tried and true;  
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

Words and music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs, © Whole Armour & Full Armour Publishing Companies 1982. All rights reserved. Reprinted under [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) #A-720863

## Offering Doxology

### Prayer of Dedication

Love shone from a stable,

Love will shine from these gifts:

**The gift of love that reaches out to offer compassion**

love that encourages the sad and grieving

**love that accepts the vulnerable**

love that breaks down walls of prejudice; hatred; division

**a Jesus-type love**

Bless all our gifts Holy God, and bless our lives. **Amen**

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**Our father/mother, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn VU 38          Angels We Have Heard on High**

### **Commissioning and Sending Forth**

Go with Joy, ready to welcome God's Love in the world  
Go with Peace prepared to welcome the Prince of Peace  
Go with Hope knowing that even in the darkest shadows light will shine  
Above all, go with Love knowing God's love in Christ is for us, and for all  
humankind.

**Choral Response VU 18          There's a Voice in the Wilderness**

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places where God,  
our God, may go!**

Words: James Lewis Milligan, 1925, alt. © Church Publishing; Music: ASCENSION(BANCROFT) Henry Hugh Bancroft © Church Publishing 1938. All rights reserved. Reprinted under [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) #A-720863

**Organ Postlude** *If departing before the end of the postlude, please do so quietly for the benefit of those remaining to enjoy the music.*

*\*United Church of Canada/Advent Unwrapped/2015*

*\*\*Adapted from prayer written by Joanne Nolet, Darlene MacNeill and Jane Doul. **Gathering,** Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2017-2018, page29. Used with permission.*

*\*\*\*Adapted from prayer written by Frances Flook. **Gathering,** Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2017-2018, page30. Used with permission.*

All children are invited to gather at the **Children's Table** following the anthem for a quiet activity to help them engage in and experience the gospel message.

**Today we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent. Christmas is almost here! At the Children's Table, create a beaded candy cane, shaped like a shepherd's crook to remind us that Jesus is our shepherd. Turn your candy cane upside down to look like a "J" as a reminder that Jesus is the reason we celebrate.**

At the 7 pm service, we celebrate Jesus birth! At the Children's Table create a nativity scene ornament for your home.

For more information about the Children's Table, contact Teri Skakum, Child and Family Coordinator, at [teri@westminsterchurch.org](mailto:teri@westminsterchurch.org)



**WESTMINSTER**  
UNITED CHURCH/SINCE 1892

745 Westminster Avenue, Wpg, MB R3G 1A5

phone: 204-784-1330

email: [info@westminsterchurch.org](mailto:info@westminsterchurch.org)

[www.westminsterchurch.org](http://www.westminsterchurch.org)

[facebook.com/westminsterchurchwinnipeg](https://www.facebook.com/westminsterchurchwinnipeg)

**Office Hours Tues. - Fri.: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

#### Our Staff

**Rev. Sherri McConnell**, Minister 784-1333

[sherrimcconnell@westminsterchurch.org](mailto:sherrimcconnell@westminsterchurch.org)

**Nathan Poole**, Director of Music in Worship

[nathanpoole@westminsterchurch.org](mailto:nathanpoole@westminsterchurch.org)

**Don Menzies**, Organist

**Teri Skakum**, Child & Family Coordinator 797-8184

[teriskakum@westminsterchurch.org](mailto:teriskakum@westminsterchurch.org)

**Michael McKay**, Events Coordinator 784-1335

[events@westminsterchurch.org](mailto:events@westminsterchurch.org)

**Marilyn Thiessen**, Office Administrator 784-1330

[info@westminsterchurch.org](mailto:info@westminsterchurch.org)

**Dan Beauvais**, Caretaker Supervisor caretaker on duty – 204-

599-0669

**Ricky Ramos**, evenings

**Stars on the Memory Tree have been purchased by:**

**Leona MacDonald, Shannon MacFarlane, Pat Miles,**

**Marg Cuddy**



*The flowers in the Sanctuary are generously donated in loving memory of. . . .*

*My mother Charlotte Thiem & grandparents Frieda & Reinhard Thiem from Annette Kletke*

*Marilyn Huband and Henry Schellenberg from Thomas & Susie Conrad*

*Myra Davidson from Mary Ann Taylor*

*Eddy Grivell from John Grivell*

*George & Mona Sharpe from the Fenwick family*

*Mary & Laurence Bennett, family and friends from Bob & Ann Peeler*

*Betty Halstead from Roy Halstead*

*Ernest Mort, our dear husband and father from the Mort family*

*Dalis Kendall, Dorcas Kendall, Desdemona Walter from Philistina Howard*

*My parents, Charles & Freda Clement, my sisters, Claire Stubbs & Gladys Thomas, my nephew,*

*Bob Stubbs from Ron Clement*

*Jessie G. Headon, beloved wife, mother and grandmother from Fred Headon Sr.,*

*Fred Jr. and family, Colin, Glenys and family*

*Beloved family members from Patrick Chiccone*

*Anonymous*

