



# Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

*Celebrating over 125 years of ministry in the community*

Sunday Dec. 23, 2018

Advent 4

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

**Organ Prelude**

**Christ Candle is lit**

## Welcome and News

### Centering Music

#### Call to Worship/Approach

In a time of waiting and anticipation,

**God is with us.**

As close as the air we breathe,

**God is with us.**

From generation to generation,

**God is with us.**

Hear the good news,

**God is with us.**

Hymn VU 9 People, Look East

#### Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Life-giving God, we encounter angels every day, but so often our eyes are closed, and we do not see them. Your sweet song of assurance often rings in our lives, yet so often it is hard for us to hear or even believe your whispers of grace – *that we are loved; that there is no need to fear; that you are with us; that we are called to birth new and good things; and that nothing is impossible with God most holy.***

**Open our hearts and minds, our ears and all our senses towards your heavenly hopes and dreams of abundance and wholeness for all. And nudge us always towards your path of peace, as we await the one sent to show us the way.....**

***Moment of silence for personal reflection.***

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Assurance**

### **Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy – The Candle of Love**

*(children are invited to come forward at this time to help Katelyn during the advent candle liturgy)*

*(three candles already lit)*

Today we light the advent candle of love.

*The fourth candle is lit*

We pray for love and compassion,

In a world that needs lots of love and compassion:

**God, you call us to be your loving people**

**Help us live with love and compassion in our hearts,**

**Help us share your love by our actions**

**And may we help our friends and family**

**Feel loved too.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn VU 6 vs 4    A Candle is Burning**

**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**

## **The Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Following the passing of the peace, the younger crowd is welcome to join Katelyn at the **Children's Table** in the Narthex for a time of activity, story, conversation and sometimes even music.*

**Anthem**            Magnificat in B Flat Major    by C.V. Stanford

**Scripture Reading:**            Shannon MacFarlane

Micah 5: 2-5a

Luke 1: 39 - 55

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** MV 120            My Soul Cries Out

## **Message**

**Duet**            Laudamus Te            from Gloria by A. Vivaldi  
given by Mary Ann Taylor and Rebecca McIntosh

## **Collection of Offerings**

*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**

## **Offering Doxology MV 36    Glory to God**

**One:** Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

**All:** Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

**One:** To God be glory forever!

**All:** To God be glory forever!

**One:** Alleluya, amen!

**All:** Alleluya, amen! x 4

Words: French translation © 2006 David Fines Music: Arrangement © 2007 The United Church of Canada All rights reserved.  
Reprinted under [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) #A-720863

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

**Gracious God, may these gifts sound notes of hope and promise through our ministries that happen here in this church, and in places far beyond these walls. May this offering - and the offering of our lives - herald your love and bring peace and joy to the world. Amen.**

## **The 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 64**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

## Commissioning and Sending Forth\*\*

Throughout this week, may hope, peace love and joy burn brightly in our hearts and lives,

**And may we be signs of God's love and compassion in our world as we prepare the way for the child of peace.**

And wherever we go, may we always remember that we never go alone – for the love of God, the peace of Christ and gift of the Holy Spirit are with us always... ..thanks be to God.

**Amen**

## Choral Response “Amen”



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

*\*Written by Karen Boivin. Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2018-19, page 35. (adapted) Used with permission.*

*\*\*Written by Wanda Winfield. **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2018-19, pg 35 (adapted). Used with permission.*

## **Lectionary readings**

*Worship materials for Christmas Eve to Epiphany were contributed by Nora Vedress, Calvary U.C., Prince Albert, Sask.*

*Gathering, A/C/E 2018-2019, page 12 - 16. Used with permission.*

### **December 24 – Christmas Eve**

**Isaiah 9:2–7** - A child has been born for us.

**Psalms 96** (VU p. 816) - Sing to God a new song.

**Titus 2:11–14** - Live a godly, upright life.

**Luke 2:1–14, (15–20)** - Jesus' birth.

#### To Ponder

The Christmas characters were all open to the signs of God's arrival: stars, angels, dreams, and more. How or where in 2018 did we see signs of this child who was "born for us"?

### **December 25 – Christmas Day (Tuesday)**

**Isaiah 62:6–12** - Prepare the way for the people.

**Psalms 97** (VU p. 817) - Let the earth be glad!

**Titus 3:4–7** - Saved by grace; heirs of hope.

**Luke 2:(1–7), 8–20** - Shepherds and angels.

#### To Ponder

After the quiet sacredness of Christmas Eve, how do we feel as we awaken on Christmas Day? What expectation comes with this special morning?

### **December 30 – First Sunday after Christmas**

**1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26** - God blesses the boy Samuel.

**Psalms 148** (VU p. 871) - Let the whole creation praise God.

**Colossians 3:12–17** - Clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness.

**Luke 2:41–52** - The boy Jesus learns at the temple.

#### To Ponder

It's still Christmas! So, keep the celebration going! What does it mean to keep Christmas in your heart?