

# KNOX UNITED CHURCH

## December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

### Advent IV - "Love"

**Sharing the Gospel of Jesus with all people through worship, service and care.**

As we gather for worship today, we acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, the ancestral land of several Indigenous nations, and part of the homeland of the Metis. We respect the sacredness of our shared home and the ground on which we walk, and we are grateful for its stewardship through the centuries.

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### PRELUDE MUSIC

#### ***From Heaven Above to Earth I Come***

*Vom Himmel Hoch*, Valentine Schuman, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539,  
Setting by S. Drummond Wolff

#### ***Lo, How a Rose Is Growing***

*Es ist ein Roe*, *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*, Koln,  
1599, Setting by S. Drummond Wolff

#### ***While Shepherds Watched***

English carol, Setting by S. Drummond Wolff



### SINGING THE SPIRIT (MV 62)

*There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;  
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.  
And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock  
in whom I trust,"  
There is room for all, there is room for all!*

Word and music: Bruce Harding, 2004

### CALL TO WORSHIP & GATHERING PRAYER

**HYMN - O Come All Ye Faithful (VU 60)**  
(verses. 1, 3, 5)



### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

**Prayer: All: We open ourselves to God this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, may our lives be lit with holy imagination. May we be shown the creative power of hope, and taught the peace that comes from justice. May we be filled with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. May the abundant love of Jesus grow within us, and burst out into the world. May our hearts be transformed by the coming of Jesus once again, so we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

sing: *Hope Is A Star* (VU 7) (vs. 4)

*Love is a flame that burns in our heart,  
Jesus has come and will never depart.*

**R:** *When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first  
and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

## GREETING GOD'S FAMILY



Children and youth may join Sunday  
School in the lower church hall.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANTHEMS

### *Night of Silence*

Words and Music by Daniel Kantor

Flute - Margo Junk

Oboe - Kevin Junk

Cold are the people, winter of life,  
we tremble in shadows this cold endless night,  
frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,  
flowers that will echo the sunrise,  
fire of hope is our only warmth,  
weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,  
on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,

gentle on the ear you whisper softly,  
rumours of a dawn so embracing,  
breathless love awaits darkened souls,  
soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star,  
your light that guides shepherds  
and kings from afar.  
shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,  
rising in the warmth of your Son's love,  
star unknowing of night and day,  
spirit we wait for your loving Son.

## *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Words Phillip Brooks, 1835-93; Arr. John Leavitt

Flute - Margo Junk

Oboe - Kevin Junk



O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

## WORDS FROM OUR SCRIPTURES



**Gospel**

**Luke 1:39-55**

Mary visits Elizabeth, and Mary's song

## ANTHEMS

### *Sing Your Praise*

(Psallite Unigenito), Text: Laint and German Translated by P.A.T.,  
Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), Arr. by Peter A. Tracton

Sing your praise to the only Son,  
Jesus Christ, the son of God.  
Sing your praise to the Lord our saviour,  
the little child who lies within his little crib.  
All the lovely angels sing so sweetly unto him.

### *Videntes Stellam*

Francis Poulenc (1952) *English version* by Hugh Ross

#### Latin

Videntes stellam  
magi gavisunt  
gaudio magno  
et intrantes domum  
obtulerunt Domino  
aurum thus et myrham

#### English

Beholding the star  
with joy the wise men came  
and with great gladness.  
they entered the house  
and offered to the Lord  
gold, myrrh and incense

## REFLECTION

### MISSION MESSAGE & OFFERING



*Music during the offering:*

#### *In Dulci Jubilo*

German Carol, 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750,  
Ed. and Arr. by S. Drummond Wolff

**MUSIC BEFORE PRAYER (MV 85)**

*Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me.*

words: John L. Bell & Graham Maule, music: John L. Bell

**COMMUNITY PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER****ANTHEMS*****Wexford Carol***

Traditional Irish Carol, Arr. by Catherine Bennett

Good people all this Christmas time,  
consider well, and bear in mind  
what our good God for us has done  
in sending his beloved Son.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep,  
to whom God's angels did appear,  
which put shepherds in great fear.

"Prepare and go," the angels said,  
"to Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
for there you'll find, on this happy morn,  
a princely babe, sweet Jesus born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind.  
the shepherds went, the babe to find,  
and as God's angels had foretold,  
they did our Saviour Christ behold.

Now let our songs and praises be  
unto His heav'nly majesty;  
and ever-more amongst our mirth,  
remember Christ our Saviour's birth.

***Glory to God***

Music by Christina Gregor; Arr. by Robert Elmore

Glory to God in the highest!  
Glory to God in the highest!  
Glory to God!  
And peace on earth, and peace on earth.  
Glory! Glory! Glory to God!  
Glory! Glory! Glory to God!  
And peace on earth, and peace on earth.  
Glory to God! Glory to God  
and good will, good will toward men!  
Glory! Glory! Glory! Glory!  
Glory to God in the highest!  
Glory! Glory! Glory to God!

**HYMN - *Joy to the World* (VU 59)****COMMISSIONING (VU 420) (vs. 2)**

*Go to the world! Go into every place.  
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.  
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah*

words: Sylvia Dunstan, music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

**POSTLUDE*****Mendelssohn***

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-4,; Setting by John Ferguson

***Adeste Fideles***

John F. Wade, Setting by John Ferguson and David Willcocks

***Regent Square***

Henry Smart, Setting by John Ferguson



**Thank you to all the music leaders,  
musicians and the choir for lifting our  
hearts and spirits with music this morning!**

