



In loving memory of loving husband, father,
grandfather, and great-grandfather,
Adolphe (Al) Penney
from Minnie Penny and family.

December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Leading Worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Organist: Bob Rose
Music Leadership: Senior Choir

We Come to Worship

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

We extend words of greeting in Inuktitut, Tagalog, Spanish and English.

HYMN: “Mary, Woman of the Promise” *Voices United 16*
(sung to the tune of “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” – “Stuttgart”)

Mary, woman of the promise,
bearer of your people’s dreams,
through your open, willing spirit
waters of God’s goodness streamed.

Mary, son of holy wisdom,
sung before the world began,
faithful to the Word within, you
carried out God’s wondrous plan.

Mary, morning star of justice,
mirror of the Radiant Light,
in the shadows of life’s journey,
be a beacon for our sight.

Mary, model of compassion,
wounded by your offspring’s pain,
when our hearts are torn by sorrow,
teach us how to love again.

Mary, woman of the Gospel,
precious home for treasured seed,
help us to be true disciples,
bearing fruit in the word and deed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who steward it.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

One: As we light our fourth candle, let us focus on the flame, aware of the light that flickers within and around us,
gift of God’s Spirit. (*pause in silence*)

*Two: God of the new day, as the fire begins to burn,
we rejoice that the time of celebration is near.*

**All: As the time of our waiting draws to an end,
may the light of your love lead us to the places
where Christ is born today.**

SUNG RESPONSE: "A Candle Is Burning" *Voices United 6, v.4*

**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.**

We Share

OUR LIFE AND WORK

We acknowledge the connection between our work and our worship as we take time to announce what is going on in our congregation and community.

RECOGNITION OF OFFERINGS AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

We acknowledge the ways people contribute to the community of faith and wider community, especially by way of supporting St. James UC financially.

ANTHEM: "Christmas Lullaby" (John Rutter)

We Listen

PREPARING THE WAY: Luke 1:46-55

PRAYER OF AWAKENING

One: As we await the coming celebration of Christmas, let us
pause for a moment in expectation of God's wisdom and grace.

**All: Eternal God, the day of celebration will soon be here and we will rejoice in the
birth of your Holy Child. As the morning dawns, keep us focussed on the
reason for our joy: the gift of your love revealed in Jesus. We pray in the name
of the One who comes. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:39-45

HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *Voices United 1, v. 1, 4*
(Please stay seated as we reflectively sing two verses of this song.)

Oh come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here

until the Son of God appear.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

POEM: "Annunciation" by Marie Howe

MESSAGE: "The Legacy of Love"

We Respond

HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *Voices United 64*

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for the needs of our global and local communities, responding to the words "God hear us" with "Come, O come, Emmanuel."

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(based on the original Aramaic):*

Radiant One: your Name shines within us, outside us - even darkness shines in you. Create your reign now, that your one desire acts with ours, as in all light so in all things. Grant what we need each day in bread and insight. Forgive our hidden past, our secret shames, as we forgive what others hide. Keep us from forgetfulness, the temptation of false appearances and free us to walk your path with light and joy. For from you arises every vision; to you returns the birthing glory of the cosmos. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

HYMN: "People, Look East" *Voices United 9*

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Through earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.

Birds, through you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,

bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

ORGAN POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

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