

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 19 2021

*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and Inclusive Community*

**“Opening the Door Wider (Love)”  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude**

Improvisation on “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

**Greetings and Announcements**

**Lighting the Affirming and the Treaty 7/Metis Region 3 Candles**

**Anthem**

Ding Dong Merrily on High G.R. Woodward/Charles Wood

**We Open the Door**

*(Threshold Moment)*

*“Hope Waits for Us at Advent”*

(By Amanda Udis-Kessler)

*You are invited to sing when directed*

**Hope Waits for Us at Advent**

Verse 4

Amanda Udis-Kessler

D D/F# G A D D/F# G A Bm G  
Love waits for us at Ad-vent. Love waits for us to care. Love waits for

6 A D Em Cmaj7 Asus A G2 D/F# Em7 D/F#  
our com-pas-sion, free-ly off-ered, ful-ly shared. In this time of pre-par-a-tion

11 G2 D/F# Em7 D/F# G2 D/F# G A Bm  
for the work of co-cre-a-tion, for the birth-ing of a world where

15 C G D2 Em7 D/F# G G/B Bm A D  
faith shapes all we do, Love is born in us a-new.

## **Lighting the Advent Candle of Love**

### **Prayer**

Holy One,  
we thank you for the glimpses we catch  
of your gift of daring love.  
Even amid moments of fear,  
of challenge, of struggle—  
even when we cannot yet see a better day  
may we never stop extending kindness and compassion.  
Ignite the flame of love within us,  
**that we might glow with its brilliance  
from the inside out.**

### ***Everyone sings***

**Love waits for us at Advent  
Love waits for us to care.  
Love waits for our compassion  
freely offered, freely shared.  
In this time of preparation  
for the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
where faith shapes all we do.  
Love is born in us anew!**

### **The Peace**

The Love of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

### **First Reading**

Isaiah 11:1-9

### **Opening Hymn**

Love Now Ascending (Tune VU #315)

Holy, holy, holy, love now ascending  
In this time of worship our song we raise to you  
Holy, holy, holy, joy that has no ending  
Giving, forgiving, breathing life anew.

Holy, holy, holy, love without a limit  
Care that binds creation in sacred unity  
Holy, holy, holy, birthing every minute,  
Christ, Love's revealer, sets our spirits free.

Holy, holy, holy, raise your voice in singing,

Join the cosmic chorus in praise of Love divine,  
Holy, holy, holy, God beyond all naming,  
Echoes our song in harmony sublime.

### **Second Reading**

Luke 3: 8, 10-14

### **A Story of Innkeeper**

#### **Reflection**

Opening the Door of our Heart Wider with Love

#### **Hymn**

O Ancient Love VU#17

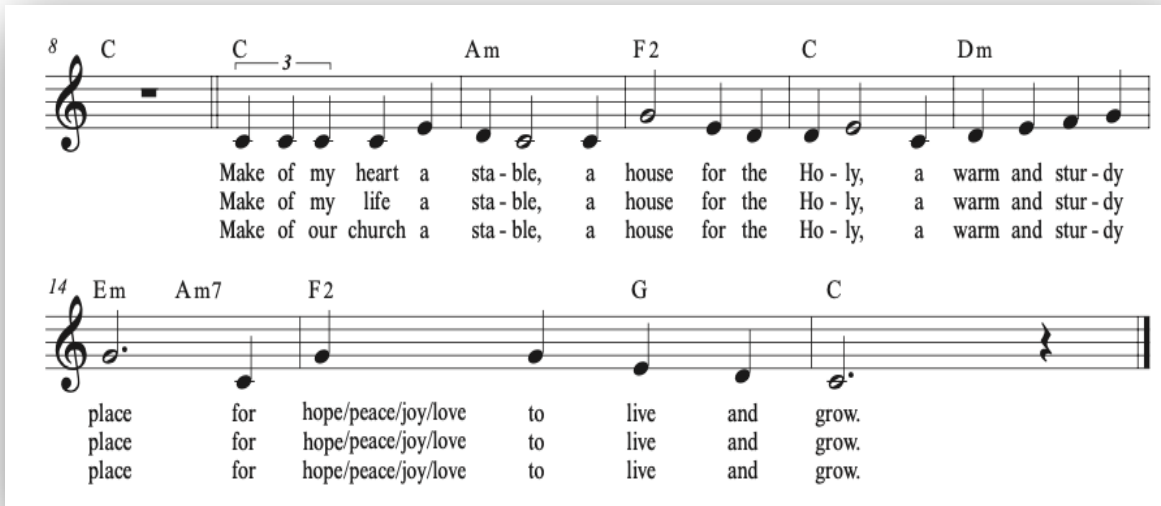
- 1 O ancient love, processing through the ages;  
O hidden love, revealed in human form;  
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:  
Refrain: O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.
  
- 2 O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;  
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;  
O hungry love, that lay within a manger: R
  
- 3 O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;  
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;  
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow: R
  
- 4 O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;  
O boundless love, that rises with the morn;  
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness: R

#### **Prayers of the People**

*"Make of My Heart a Stable"*

*(Original song by Amanda Udis-Kessler)*

***Sung during the prayers***



8 C C 3 Am F2 C Dm

Make of my heart a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy  
 Make of my life a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy  
 Make of our church a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a warm and stur-dy

14 Em Am7 F2 G C

place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.  
 place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.  
 place for hope/peace/joy/love to live and grow.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:  
 The Jesus Prayer

### Offering

#### Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray in the spirit of peace:

**God of peace, we offer respect and caring to all who seek  
 hope, peace, and wholeness.**

**We open the inn of our hearts and live our faith through compassionate  
 action.**

**This offering is an outward expression of our gratitude. It is an affirmation of  
 our faith that our church 'inn' will be a safe, and sacred place that welcomes  
 all; one that opens its doors to possibilities and new life.**

### Closing Carol

(Story about "O Come, All Ye Faithful")

O Come, All Ye Faithful VU #60

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
 Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
 Glory to God in the highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Child, for us sinners  
poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love:  
Who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?  
O come, let us adore him

### **Benediction**

#### **Going out VU #964**

Go now with love, go now with peace,  
May the hope of God surround us  
Everywhere, everywhere, we may go.

### **Postlude**

Fantasy on Two Well-Known Christmas Carols John E. West

### **Worship Notes**

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