

December 21, 2025

Advent 4: Love

THIS WEEK AT BRECHIN

Minister: Rev. Katherine Brittain

Music Director and Choir Leader: Tim Weger

Readers: Val Neilson

Greeters: Lenore Thomas & Salome Carey

Power Point: Kathy Torhjelm

Audio Visual: Matt Haapala

Coffee Servers: Catherine Eck & Colleen Weir

Centering and Land Acknowledgement

Call to Worship

One: How does a weary world rejoice?

All: **We sing songs of hope.**

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship.

We hope.

We hope.

Against all odds, we hope.

One: Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

Let us worship holy God.

Affirming statement:

All: **As an Affirming Ministry we boldly declare that we fully welcome and include the full participation of all people in the life and work of Ministry as we journey together, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, marital status, mental or physical ability, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, or economic circumstance. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and wholeness for all God's people.**

Advent Candle Lighting

One: How does a weary world practice love?

All: **By sending cards, and picking up the phone.**

One: By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others. By learning people's stories and finding common ground.

All: **By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.**

One: There are a million ways to practice love.
So today we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge.

All: **With God's help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.**

Hymn:

TLUS 55 "We Light This Candle"

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**We light this candle for love.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
so love can find a way,
so love can find a way.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55 and Luke 1:67-80

Response:

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

All: **Thanks be to God**

Anthem:

"Come to the Light"

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Sermon: We Sing Songs of Hope

Rev Katherine Brittain

Hymn:

VU 44 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

*(Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849, alt.; Music: Richard Storrs Willis 1850
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- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
 that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth
 to touch their harps of gold,
 'Peace on the earth, good will to all,
 from heaven's all-gracious King!'
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 to hear the angels sing.**

- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
 with peaceful wings unfurled,
 and still their heavenly music floats
 o'er all the weary world;
 above its sad and lowly plains
 they bend on hovering wing,
 and ever o'er its Babel sounds
 the blessed angels sing.**

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring human kind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
to hear the angels sing.

4 For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that hope can change the world.

We believe that God uses ordinary people, like an unwed teenage mother, for extraordinary good.

And we believe

that each of these ordinary people can make a difference.

We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.

We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope.

But we choose hope anyway.

In the face of hardship, we hope together.

We hope with God. We hope for a better world.

This is our song. We believe; help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Minute for Mission

Invitation to Offering

Offering Hymn: MV 221 "I Am Walking a Path of Love"

*(Words and music: Janet Bauman Tissandier
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I am walking a path of love,
I am walking a path of love,
I am walking a path of love,
lead me home,
lead me home.

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**Our Father, 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
forever and ever. Amen.**

Announcements: Life and Work of the Church

Hymn:

MV 120 "My Soul Cries Out"

(Words: Rory Cooney 1990. Music: traditional melody, Ireland; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990.

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1. **My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain: **My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!**

2. **Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.** **R**

3. **From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.**
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn. R

4. **Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.**
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which hold us bound,
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around. R

Commissioning and Benediction