

Saint Andrew's United Church

We are called to be the united church. Mission is our home. We foster belonging; provide spiritual accompaniment; and ask the deep questions

The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21st, 2025

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

++ Please rise in body or spirit

MV = More Voices; VU = Voices United;

TLUS = Then Let Us Sing

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING:

God be with you.

And also with you.

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

We worship on the unceded territory of the Halq'eméylem-speaking peoples.

CANDLE LIGHTING:

We have already lit the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we light the candle of love.

Love looks like pets napping on your lap.

Love sounds like the burble of a creek.

Love smells like cinnamon.

Love tastes like a good cup of tea.

Love feels like a warm hug.

What image or sensation says love to you?

Candle is lit.

[We invite your silent or spoken responses.]

The Candle is lit.

Written by Emily Gordon, Burningbush Eco-ministry, 2025.

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: "We are Waiting"

We are waiting; we are watching.

The stars will be our guide.

**We are list'ning for the calling,
that wakens all our lives.**

**So this candle burns for Love;
it burns for justice and for truth.**

We are are waiting; we are watching for you. (2x)

WE WELCOME EACH OTHER:

Mary and Joseph had plans for their life together.

Life upsets those plans.

God upsets those plans.

Let us gather to worship; to wonder;

to ask and to dream about what God is calling us to.

Let us worship God!

WE CENTRE IN GOD:

As your Spirit began something in Mary, God,

stir up something in us.

As you spoke to Joseph's heart, God,

speak in ours.

As your raised up Jesus, God,

raise us up so that we might participate in your salvation.

++**HYMN:** "Light is Kindled in the Darkness" [Tune: VU 512]

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD:

Holy One, Wholly Love,

Choosing to love can feel like a risk.

If we open our hearts,

we risk being wounded, or feeling like no one cares.

Love is sometimes framed as foolishness, or weakness,
or a luxury that we cannot afford.

[Silent Prayer]

AND WE ARE ACCEPTED:

God is love.

God calls his people to love.

Advent tells the story of those who chose to love :

Joseph; Mary; Jesus.

God is love, and God is faithful.

In choosing to love, we are choosing life in God.

WE RESPOND: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**O come, you Wisdom from on high,
from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care,
to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come within as Hope to dwell.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE: **Reader: Cathy Waller**

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Matthew 1:18-25

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

++HYMN: MV 138 – “My Love Colours Outside the Lines”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE

PASSING THE PEACE:

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER TLUS 70 *[Sung]*

MISSION AND SERVICE STORIES:

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

Let us present our offering to the work of God.

++OFFERTORY: “These Gifts We Bring”

These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,
to reconcile, make new.

Gather us in, show us the way,
to live our lives in Truth;
to share Your love in all we do.

The offering is brought forward.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

Giver of the perfect gift, we place before you our gifts in tribute,
thanks, and hope for a new tomorrow. May these gifts be used to
bring peace to a hurting world. May these gifts be used to bring joy
where sadness reigns. May they inspire peace and hope, bringing
comfort for all who are in need.

**Bless our gifts, given so that all may know the joy of this
season. For there is no gift that is too small when given in
your name.**

++HYMN: VU 9 – “People, Look East”

WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD

++COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

EXTROIT: “Wait for the Lord”

END OF WORSHIP

BEGINNING OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY



St. Andrew's is a member
of Affirming United

