

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
December 20, 2020

Advent 4 – Love

Music Prelude

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

We are gathered on the treaty territory of the Huron Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people and their ancestors. May we honour their history, spirituality, culture and teachings and uphold our responsibilities as treaty partners.

Announcements

Lighting the Advent Wreath:

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle for Hope. (*light candle*)

On the second Sunday, we lit a candle for Peace. (*light candle*)

Last Sunday, we lit a candle for Joy. (*light candle*)

Today, we light a candle for Love. (*light candle*)

As the flame begins to burn, let the love of God warm our hearts as Mary's love welcomed the Christ child into the world so long ago in Bethlehem.

(Written by Jim Allan, Camrose United Church, Camrose, Alta., Gathering A/C/E 2005/06, page 50. Used with permission.)

Call to Worship:

The angel said to Mary,

"Be not afraid!"

The angel said to the Shepherds,

"Be not afraid!"

The angel says to us,

"Be not afraid, for I bring good news of great joy"

Unto us this day, and each day of our lives,

the Christ-child is born.

Let us sing and celebrate!

Let us worship our God!

(Written by Richard Bott, St. Andrew's United Church, Maple Ridge, B.C., Gathering A/C/E 2011/12, page 28. Used with permission.)

Carol: "Joy to the World"

[VU 59, Vs 1,2,4]

Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we give thanks
for your promise of hope, peace, joy, and love.
Yet we sometimes act as if
we do not believe in your promise;
we sometimes act as if these things are not
possible. Forgive us.
Help us to act in ways that show
we live what we believe. Amen.

(Written by Beth W. Johnston, Kings United Pastoral Charge, serving eastern and central Kings Co, P.E.I., Gathering A/C/E 2014/15, page 30. Used with permission.)

Words of Assurance

Through a tiny Child, God birthed new hope into this world.
Through a tiny child, God grew a model for faithful living.
Through a tiny child, God gave us a way, a truth, a holy life.
For you all this was given.

Thanks be to God. What love, what grace, what wondrous gift is given.

(Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, First Presbyterian Church, Moorhead, Minn., Gathering A/C/E 2014/15, page 34. Used with permission.)

Candle Lighting

A time of silence

Children's Worship Reading of the Birth of Jesus

A time of silence

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Prayer before the Scriptures:

Angels and stars greeted Jesus' birth,
and the scriptures tell of these and other
experiences of the Holy.
Open our hearts to the message,
our ears to the call;
and give us grace to respond. Amen.

(Written by Beth Johnston, Kings United Pastoral Charge, Annandale/Bay Fortune/Dundas/Souris, P.E.I., Gathering A/C/E 2010/11, page 30. Used with permission.)

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: "The Heart of God"

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Carol: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

[VU 43]

Blessing

Music Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us, whether in person or on line. We look forward to joining with you again next week!