



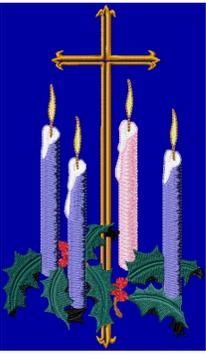
December 24, 2017
Advent 4 - Love
10:30 am



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Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.





Welcome



Together we all make up the family of First-St. Andrew's. If you are new to the family, please know that you are always welcome here. It would be our blessing to meet you after worship for Coffee and Conversation, and to share with you some of the many exciting things that are happening here at FSA. Rev. Michelle Down wants to hear from you! Please contact her at revmichelledown@fsaunited.com or on her cell at 519-709-9554 anytime.

Bold type indicates congregational response. * indicates to stand, if able.

Music to Enter into God's Presence: The Christmas Pipes of County Clare Harvey Gaul

Welcome and Announcements

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory:

One: We acknowledge the traditional Territory of the Attawandaron, Anishnaabeg, and Wendat peoples.

ALL: We give our gratitude to the tribes of the Iroquois, Huron, and Chippewa of the Thames.

One: With thankfulness and respect for their stewardship of creation, we seek to live into right relations with all.

ALL: We offer ourselves, and our HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE that together we can find reconciliation.

One: We listen this day, for the story of creation's love, as it is found in broken bark, beaver pelt, under the moon of winter time.

***Hymn:** VU #71 T'was in the Moon of Winter Time vs.4 JESOUS AHATONHIA

O children of the forest free, the angel song is true;
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:
Jesus, your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.



Stewardship Seconds:

We are called to share our tangible gifts, and also the intangible ones - joy, laughter, compassion.

Lighting the Advent Wreath of LOVE:

Meals on Wheels

Choir: Come, Lord Jesus, Come

arr. Joel Raney

Responsive Reading:

One: Advent is a time to celebrate God's love.

ALL: God's love is pure.

One: We celebrate by loving our neighbours as ourselves.

ALL: God's love is everlasting.

One: We celebrate by loving the Lord our God with all our hearts.

ALL: God's love is all-powerful.

One: We celebrate by spreading God's love to a world in need.

ALL: God's love is freely given to all.



Candle Lighting

Congregation: Come, Lord Jesus, Come

Musical notation for the hymn "Come, thou long-expected Jesus". It consists of four staves of music in G major, 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born - to set thy peo - ple free; from our sins and fears re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee." The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus,
born - to set thy peo - ple free; from our
sins and fears re - lease us;
let us find our rest in thee.

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Choir: Come, Lord Jesus, Come

How do you experience the Holy Light?

Meals on Wheels

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

Kerry Stover

***Hymn:** VU #36 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Anthem: Love Came Down at Christmas

Mark Sirett

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Jan Hendry

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Following is the same Gospel passage – but with the poetic treatment Erasure applied. "Erasure" is the poetic process of removing words to discover/perceive/experience something in a new way. Here we have applied it to our scripture.



Annunciation Under Erasure - Mary Szybist

And he came to her and said

The Lord is

Troubled

In mind

Be afraid Mary

The Holy

Will overshadow you

Therefore

Be

Nothing

Be impossible

And Mary said

And the angel departed from her

The Angels Visit Under Erasure - Michelle Down

Sent by God

Perplexed pondered sort

Found conceived bear

Great ancestor

No end

Born ... Holy ... Called

Nothing impossible with God

Here I am

Let it Be.

Special Music: The Angel Gabriel
Bob Kennedy - clarinet
Lynda Kennedy - piano

Anne Krantz Organ

Message: The Christmas Erasure

Rev. Michelle Down

***Hymn:** VU #31 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ST THEODULPH

Prayers of the People: Cantor - Spoken prayer - Cantor

Kerry Stover

Offering

Offering Music: Take Heart, the Journey's Ended
Alastair Smyth - Baritone

arr. Antony Baldwin

Offertory: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Give thanks to God in love made known
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

VENI EMMANUEL

***Hymn:** VU #38 Angels We Have Heard On High

GLORIA

Blessing and Benediction

Benediction Response: MV#221 I am Walking the Path of Love (sung 2 times)
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.

Music to Commission Us into Service and Witness:

Two French Carols
Bob Kennedy - clarinet
Lynda Kennedy - piano

arr. Brant Adams



The Leadership in Today's Service Includes:

Welcoming Ushers: Russ Monteith, Glenda Baldwin, Joyce Payne and Pat Tripp

Narthex Co-ordinators: Winnie Wake

Coffee & Conversation: Dave & Deanne Pederson and Barbara Cunningham

We thank God for all those who share their gifts and talents.