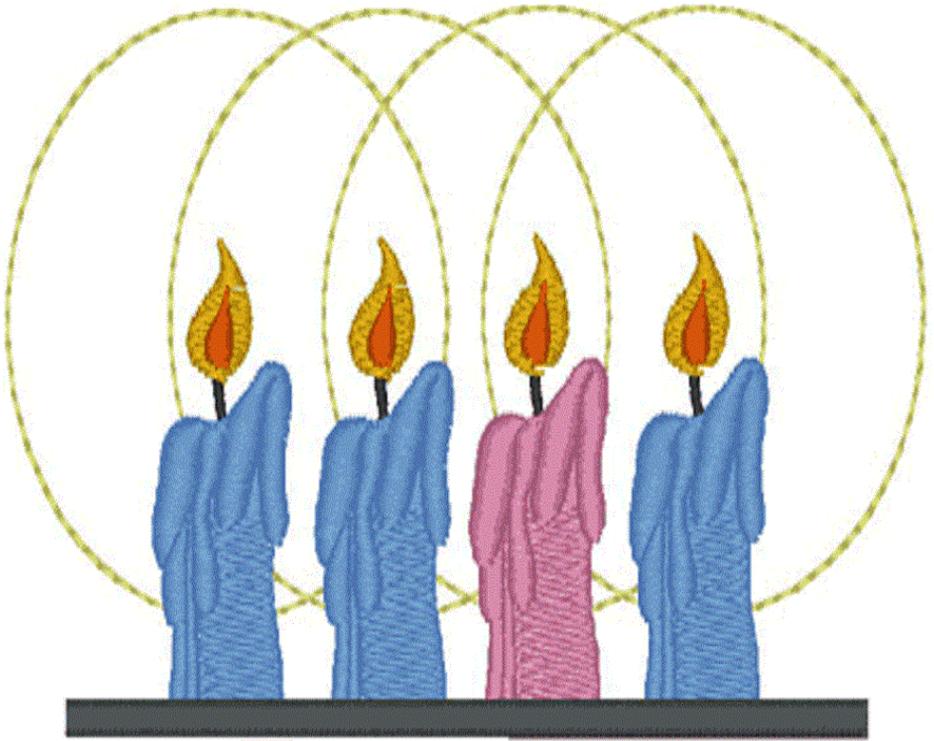


St. David's United Church
December 23, 2018
Advent of Love



Love

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

Welcome to St. David's United Church

3303 Capitol Hill Crescent NW

Calgary, Alberta T2M 2R2

Telephone: 403 284-2276

e-mail: admin@sduc.ca

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Presiding: Peggy McDonagh, Brent Tucker and Chamber Choir

We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this place. Come as you are -- and be.

Prior to the service the Creation, Affirming and Value candles were lit to affirm that all humanity and creation must be respected and valued. The Treaty 7/Metis Region 3 candle was lit to show respect for the land and to affirm our continued commitment to live into right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters.

SEED OF MEDITATION

*"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: **loving others**. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"*

- Bob Hope

PRELUDE

*"Rorate Caeli" from Twelve Preludes
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her
The Shepherd Pipe*

*J. Demessieux
J. Pachelbel
G. M. Martin*

CAROL SINGING

Go Tell it on the Mountain

VU #43 (vs. 1&2)

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

1 *While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. R*

2 *The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R*

What Child is This

VU #74 (vs. 1&3)

1 What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the King,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the Babe, the Son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. R

COMMUNITY NEWS AND GREETING

ENTRANCE INTO WORSHIP

People of God, be welcome on this last Sunday of Advent
We come together during this busy season to take a breath.

To breathe in together the life that God gives us.

**To listen to the beat of God's heart and the blessings and
lessons this season brings to us.**

Each week we have lit an Advent Candle that reminds us of God's presence
with us.

**In the long dark nights of December, in the frantic pace of
Christmas, we welcome God's hope, peace, joy and love
and make room for them in our hearts.**

People of God, welcome on this Advent of Love.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

(Two blue candles and the pink are lit)

Today we light the Advent candle of love. (The last blue candle is lit)

**We welcome the light of love, the light of love that shone in the
lives of those Jesus touched and with whom he shared meals.**

Jesus said "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my
love."

**This is the love that healed the broken-hearted. It is the light of
love that quiets pain and grief, comforts and cares, and brings
hope and peace.**

Come, God of Life, beacon of love as our Advent journey ends, may we let your shine in our hearts always.

We receive the light of love.

HYMN RESPONSE

A Candle is Burning

vs. 4 VU #6

- 4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

LESSON ONE

Isaiah 61:1-11

HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

vs. 1-3, 6-7 VU #1

Verse 1 is sung by the choir, congregation joins in on verse 2

- 1 *O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*
- 2 *O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. R*
- 3 *O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. R*
- 6 *O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. R*
- 7 *O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace. R*

ADVENT PRAYER

Breath of God, awaken us to your divine presence that bids us to pay attention to Holy moments amidst the lure of the twinkling lights, familiar carol sounds, cooking and shopping, parties and gift giving. We hear your whisper to us, inviting us to seek the quiet centre that settles our hearts and calms our busyness allowing us to wait patiently for the rebirth of your love. We pray in the name of the coming one. Amen.

. . .to hear the wisdom of God

LESSON TWO

Isaiah 40:1-8

HYMN

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

VU #18

- 1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
 a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
 a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
 the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
 where God, our God, may go!
- 2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
 get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
 the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
 like grass our works decay;
the power and pomp of nations
 shall pass, like a dream, away.
- 3 But the word of our God endureth,
 whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
 and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
 the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
 and bring them safe to fold.
- 4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
 a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,

a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

LESSON THREE Isaiah 42:1-4

ANTHEM *Bring Us Peace* P. Martin & C. Courtney

LESSON FOUR Isaiah 35:1-6

HYMN Hail to God's Own Anointed VU #30

- 1 Hail to God's own anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, God's reign on earth begun!
Christ comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
- 2 Christ comes with justice surely to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious
in his sight.
- 3 Christ shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.
- 4 To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.

LESSON FIVE Luke: 1: 26-33, 39

HYMN Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VU #8

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.
It came a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Saviour when half spent was the night.

LESSON SIX

Luke 2: 1-7

ANTHEM

When Mary Sang Her Lullaby

S. DeFord

To respond. . .

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

Let us present our offering given from the heart of love. Love powerful enough to transform the world during this season of wonder and beauty.

OFFERTORY

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

A. Figus

RECEPTION OF OFFERING GIFTS/COMMUNION ELEMENTS &

DEDICATION HYMN

(tune: VU #36)

(Words by Rev. Peggy McDonagh)

All who come with hearts confessing,
now approach this meal of grace.
Let us, with love's richest blessing,
Christmas hope and joy embrace.
Come with praises, come with praises,
celebrate the gift of love.

To this table bring your vision
for a world made whole through love.
Where all people share their wisdom
truth and justice shall increase.
Come ye faithful, come ye faithful,
celebrate the power of love.

May the bread and wine unite us
in our quest for peace on earth.
May our hearts be moved within us
to embrace our own new birth.
Come with praises, come with praises,
celebrate the way of love.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Friends, on this Advent of Love, we have heard the sacred story. The prophet foretold it, angelic messengers delivered the news. From that Bethlehem beginning, Jesus spent his life serving others, that all might know the compassionate care of a loving God.

**We gather at the table prepared for us to celebrate Jesus' birth
and life in the breaking of bread and in sharing the cup.**

At this table we bear witness to our faith.

At this table, God brings wholeness out of brokenness and healing to our world. Let us break bread together.

May a heart of love beat within you.

And also in you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

We offer our praise, O God of Mystery and Love, for in the communion of your love, Divine Healing surrounds us.

Advent God as we continue our annual trek to the manger. . .

THE JESUS PRAYER

In the spirit of how some early Jesus movements prayed in various times and places, we pray

Abba, may your name be holy.

May your rule take place.

Give us each day our daily bread.

Pardon our debts, for we ourselves pardon everyone in debt to us. And do not bring us into a trying situation. Amen.

BREAD OF LIFE, CUP OF THE NEW COMMANDMENT

Remembering the birth of the child in a quiet cave, remembering Jesus' life and death and his resurrecting love, we eat and drink to be strengthened in our time of waiting for peace and justice, so that we will have the courage to follow the Christmas promise of a world made new.

THE SHARING

These are the gifts of God's presence to be shared by the people of the Spirit. Let us eat with hope, peace, joy and love in our hearts.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP *(at stations)*

(For those unable to come forward, raise your hand and the bread and the cup will be served to you.)

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Ave Verum Corpus

C. Saint-Saens

*Translation: Jesu, Word of God Incarnate, of the virgin Mary born,
On the cross thy sacred body for us with nails was torn.*

*Cleanse us, by thy blood and water streaming from thy
pierced side; Feed us with thy body broken, now in death's
agony! O Jesu, hear us, Son of Mary.*

AFTER COMMUNION

God of Christmas promise, God of childlike hope, we thank you for this holy meal in which your love is made known over and over.

Here we have been replenished and strengthened, the light of love rekindled within us.

Lead us to live lives marked by compassion and help us boldly to carry your light into the world.

May we go from here to speak your love and to walk in your way, the Way of Jesus. May peace gently surround us this Christmas season. Amen.

...and be blessed.

LESSON SEVEN Mark 1:1-15

HYMN Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending VU #25

- 1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
 see the Lamb for sinners slain!
 Thousand, thousand saints attending
 join to sing the glad refrain:
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
 God appears on earth to reign.
- 2 Every eye shall then behold you,
 robed in awesome majesty;
 all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you,
 pierced, and nailed you to the tree,
 deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
 shall the true Messiah see.
- 3 Now redemption, long expected
 see in solemn pomp appear;
 all the saints, by us rejected,
 thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
 hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
 See the day of God appear!
- 4 Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,
 high on your eternal throne;
 crowns and empires fall before you,
 claim the kingdom for your own:
 O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
 Everlasting Christ, come down.

BENEDICTION

May you embrace the gladness of Christmas,
 which is hope.
The spirit of Christmas,
 which is peace.
The wonder of Christmas,

which is joy.

The heart of Christmas,

which is love.

- Ada V. Hendricks

May the warming Light of God's Love guide and keep us until we meet again.

SUNG BLESSING

Go now with love, go now with love

May the peace of God go with you

Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BRIEF ANNUAL MEETING
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

This will be a short (15 minutes) congregational meeting to pass a motion to deal with the appointment and removal of Trustees for St. David's before year end. According to St. David's bylaws Trustee appointments and resignations must be approved at a congregational meeting.

POSTLUDE

A Christmas Quodlibet

J. Burge

**PEOPLE ARE INVITED TO TAKE A POINSETTIA
HOME IF YOU HAVE DONATED ONE**

**GROWING AND DEEPENING OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES THROUGH
WORSHIP AND NURTURE**

December 24 Christmas Eve Services

4:30 pm Family Christmas Service

8:00 pm Christmas Candlelight Service

December 30 - 10:00 – Wassailing Service

January 6 - 10:00 - Epiphany Sunday

COMFORT AND LOVE VIA A PRAYER SHAWL

The prayer shawl group invites people to take a prayer shawl, card, and bag to someone who may need some tender comfort, care, love and support this Christmas season. The shawls are displayed at the back of the sanctuary. Donations to the Prayer Shawl ministry are appreciated.

♪ Here We Go A Wassailing ♪ Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 am

On December 31st at 10:00 a.m. we invite you to fill your cups with some warm wassail to sip on while we gather in the sanctuary for an informal Christmas worship experience!

All are welcome to bring a short (1-3 minute) anecdote, story, poem or song to share, a favorite Christmas carol request from the hymn book, or to simply come and receive what the morning has to offer.

If you are able to help out by bringing a batch of wassail in a crock pot that morning, we would be very grateful and would love to provide you with a recipe! Please contact Alison to answer any questions you may have and/or to receive a wassail recipe.

We hope this will be a warm, beautiful Christmas worship that highlights all that makes this season special, touching, and meaningful and we look forward to receiving all who come “a wassailing.”

BAPTISM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

– January 27, 2019

On Sunday, January 27 we are planning to have a worship service honouring and celebrating the sacrament of baptism. In preparation for this exciting event we are inviting people to consider if they would like to be baptized on that Sunday morning. This will be a baptism service celebrated by the entire community.

If you would like to be baptized or have children baptized or would like to reaffirm your faith, please contact Peggy McDonagh, Alison Demeter or the office.

WELCOME TO ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

We hope that your heart is touched, your faith inspired, and your spiritual life deepened in this gathering time and worship experience. If you are visiting for the first time please know that you are welcome, you are valued, and you enhance this sacred place by your presence.

If you wish to know more about St. David's, please fill in a "Response Card" found at the back of the Sanctuary and place it in the box or the offering plate.

Thank you for making this a scent free environment. It is a joy to have you with us today, you are welcomed and embraced. Please join us following worship in the TM room for conversation, coffee/tea and fellowship. Washrooms are opposite the front entrance and in the basement.

The Rainbow Room Nursery is available for infants to pre-school age, downstairs at the end of Robertson Hall.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Voices United hymn book, at the back of the church, or from an usher. If you would like to have contribution envelopes, please contact the office. Tax receipts are issued at the end of the year for all identified donations and offerings. If you give through PAR, PAR cards are available from the ushers to be placed on the offering plate as a symbol of your offering given through PAR.

PRAYER CONCERNS The prayer chain is committed to praying for you in times of crisis for a period of 30 days. Please contact the office or one of the ministers.

FLOWERS enhance our church services each Sunday. Remember loved or joyous occasions all year with donations to the flower fund. Dedications are placed in the worship folder.

If anyone has celebrations or events, they wish to have acknowledged in the worship folder or newsletter, please contact the office administrator at the church office at 403 284-2276 or admin@sduc.ca no later than Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL CARE *If you have any pastoral concerns about yourself or others please contact Peggy McDonagh or Debbie Stockdale at the church office. If you know someone who is in long term care, in hospital or needs a visit, please contact the office.*

We need your help ... in a congregation the size of St. David's it can be difficult to know who has not been present in worship for some time. If you are aware of someone you have not seen for a while, please contact the office or contact the people and let them know that they are missed. As a congregation, we all must be aware of one another and acknowledge those absent to ensure everyone feels cared for and valued. Let us all do our part to keep connected.

THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Greeters.....	December Sacred Service Team
Ushers	December Sacred Service Team
Counters.....	David Mitchell & Dorothy Duker
Projection.....	PSALT Team
Reader.....	Bill Way
Sunday Receptionist.....	Dorothy Duker
Music	Angel Voices
Accompanist.....	Colleen Charter

MINISTRY PERSONNEL

Peggy McDonagh	Minister, Congregational Operations and Worship	peggy@sduc.ca	Voice Mail #104
Chantal Winslow	Office Administrator	admin@sduc.ca	Gen Voice Mail
Brent Tucker	Music Director	music@sduc.ca	Voice Mail #106

Wayne Holst	Adult Spiritual Development Ministry	asdm@sduc.ca	Voice Mail #113
Alison Demeter	Minister of Families	children@sduc.ca	Voice Mail #109
Wally Pelley	Custodian		Gen Voice Mail
Paige Martin	Accountant	accounting@sduc.ca	Voice Mail #107
Stephanie Price & Trent Burke	Faith Quest Leader		Voice Mail #110
Debbie Stockdale	Pastoral Care	pastoralcare@sduc.ca	
Vanessa Hansen	Nursery		

ST. DAVID'S WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun. Dec 23	10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 2:30 pm	Sunday Worship – Sanctuary Faith Quest – Robertson Hall Refreshments – TM Room Christmas Eve Rehearsal & Lunch Iglesia Ni Cristo Church – Sanctuary & TM Room
Mon. Dec 24	4:30 pm 8:00 pm	OFFICE CLOSED Family Service – Sanctuary Candle Light Service - Sanctuary
Tues. Dec 25	6:00 pm	OFFICE CLOSED Iglesia Ni Cristo Church of Christ – Sanctuary & TM Room
Wed. Dec 26		OFFICE CLOSED
Thurs. Dec 27		OFFICE CLOSED
Fri. Dec 28	6:00 pm	OFFICE CLOSED Iglesia Ni Cristo – Robertson Hall
Sat. Dec 29	2:30 pm	Shalom – TM Room

Sun. Dec 30	10:00 am 11:00 am 2:30 pm	Sunday Worship – Sanctuary Refreshments – TM Room Iglesia Ni Cristo Church – Sanctuary & TM Room
Mon. Dec 31		OFFICE CLOSED
Tue. Jan 1		OFFICE CLOSED

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