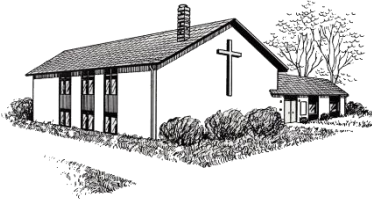


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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*  
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*  
Office Administrator: *Wilma Fehr*  
Property Manager: *Heinz Goetz*

*Our Mission...*

*to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.*

*We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.*

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Advent 2

“What Child is This? A Child of Peace”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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*\*The asterisk invites all to stand, if they are able. **Bold** print indicates a congregational response.*

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE *(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)*

*~Joanne Diplock*

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND

*We acknowledge that we meet on Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Red River Metis. We also acknowledge that the water we use here comes from the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. We are grateful for these first inhabitants and their stewardship of the land and its resources through the ages, and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.*

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE *~Noreen Scott*

*As we light this candle, we pray for peace:*

**peace in our hearts,  
peace in our homes,  
peace in our world.**

*As we await the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace,*

**O God, we pray for peace. Amen.**

SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

***Peace be with you.  
And also with you.***

CALL to WORSHIP *(Inspired by Luke 3: 4b-6)*

*(Adapted from Carol E. Bayma; from *Gathering A/C/E 2012-2013.*)*

*Someone is shouting in the desert:*

*Get the road ready! The Lord is coming.*

**Fill in the potholes. Flatten the bumps!  
Eliminate the winding highways  
and pave the gravel roads.**

*Straighten the highway of our lives  
to receive the Messiah.*

**Clear the pathways of our minds  
to welcome God's Anointed.**

*Someone is shouting in the desert:*

**God's salvation is coming to us all!**

*Come, and let us worship God together.*

**OPENING PRAYER** (Adapted from Larry Doyle, Bob Root and Darrow Woods; from *Gathering A/C/E 2013-2014*.)

**We live in a world where peace seems like a distant dream, O God.**

**And so we pray**

**– not just for the absence of violence and conflict,  
but for the deep peace of knowing and trusting your will and your way.**

**As the darkness and coldness of December set in,  
we trust that the light and the warmth of your Holy Spirit will enfold us,  
and remind us of the shalom that is to come  
and the shalom that is already within us...**

**In Christ's name, and in Christ's way, we pray.**

**Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: VU #28 – "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness"** (Waters)  
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**1 Herald! Sound the note of gladness!**

**Tell the news that Christ is here;  
make a pathway through the desert  
for the one who brings God near.**

**Sound the trumpet!**

**Tell the message!**

**Christ the Saving One has come!**

**2 Herald! Sound the note of judgement,  
warning us of right and wrong,  
turning us from sin and sadness,  
till once more we sing the song. R**

**3 Herald! Sound the note of pardon!  
Those repenting are forgiven;  
God receives these wayward children,  
and to all new life is given. R**

**4 Herald! Sound the note of triumph!  
Christ has come to share our life,**

**bringing God's own love and power,  
granting victory in our strife. R**

**ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING** ~Lit by Jeff & Megan Karle  
(Written by Sue Browning; from *Gathering A/C/E 2009-2010.*)

**CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER** (Written by Sue Browning; from *Gathering A/C/E 2009-2010.*)

**Thank you, God, for sending Jesus,  
your gift of peace to the world.  
Help us to work with him  
to find peaceful ways to solve problems  
in our own lives and in the world.  
Let this candle remind us  
that the light of Christ is shining in our hearts  
and can spread from us to others  
when we live in peace. Amen.**

\***SUNG RESPONSE: #33 MV – "Jesus Came Bringing Us Peace"** (traditional)  
(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License) ~Joanne Diplock

**Jesus came bringing us peace,  
Jesus came bringing us peace,  
Jesus came bringing us peace,  
Hallelujah forever more! X3**

**CONVERSATION TIME** "Peace for the Christ Child"

## **LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Reader:** *Dennis Deley*

### **Malachi 3: 1-4**

*See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?*

*For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.*

### **Luke 3: 1-6**

*In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the*

wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

*'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:*

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.*

*Every valley shall be filled,*

*and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,*

*and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '*

### Words of Response:

*For the Word of God in scripture,*

*for the Word of God among us,*

*for the Word of God within us,*

**thanks be to God!**

### CHOIR ANTHEM:    **"Let There Be Peace on Earth"**

*(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)*

*~Joanne Diplock*

### REFLECTION: "Advent Peace"

*~Rev. Susan Reed*

## RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

### PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

#### INVITATION to the OFFERING

*(Written by Frances Flook; from *Gathering A/C/E 2012-2013*)*

# THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

\*Offering Verse: VU #55 – "In the Bleak Midwinter"

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(Rossetti/Holst)  
~Joanne Diplock

**4 What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

\*Offertory Prayer (From the United Church of Canada's Advent 2024 worship resources. Found online.)

**Generous God,  
with grateful hearts, we dedicate these gifts.  
May they be a blessing to many,  
and a sign that the life and work of your church is ongoing.  
Multiply these gifts as we love and serve others, we pray,  
and help us to follow the peaceful example of Jesus,  
whose birth we eagerly await. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The texts for the sung pieces in the Communion Liturgy were written by Beth Quick, Daniel Benedict & Dean McIntyre, and Steve Garnaas-Holmes. All found online and used with permission.

### INTRODUCTION

INVITATION *tune VU #74 – "What Child is This?"*

(English melody)

**O Christ, you call to your table here  
your blessed children, your people dear.  
Our gifts we bring, and your praise we sing,  
as we gather to wait for your coming.  
Come, come Emmanuel!  
The bread and wine your presence tell.  
Come, come and fill our hearts,  
and make of us signs of your coming.**

CALL to GIVE THANKS *tune VU #1 – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

(Willan)

**The Lord be with you as we gather here.  
Lift up your hearts unto the Lord your God.  
For it is right to give God our praise.  
Let us prepare our hearts for coming days:  
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *tune "Good King Wenceslas"*

- 1. Blessing, honor, glory, pow'r, unto God almighty.  
Praise to you, eternal God, giver of all mercy.  
Long ago you made us God, made us in your image.  
But through sin we broke the form of our God withi-n us.**
- 2. Still your love came shining through. From heav'n you did send us  
Christ to take on human flesh, here to live among us.  
Christ did suffer for our sin, died a death most cruel.  
Now he lives and reigns in heav'n, as its brightest je-wel.**
- 3. We the church on earth do sing, with the hosts of heaven:  
glory to the one who died, for he has arisen.  
The'baby born at Bethlehem is the king of heaven,  
and we praise God's blessed name with our song une-nding.**

SONG of CREATION *tune VU #48 – "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*

(Mendelssohn)

**Holy, holy, holy Lo-rd, God of pow'r and might adored,  
heav'n and earth are shining bri-ght with the glory of your light.  
Loud hosannas now we sing! In the highest may they ring!  
Blessed is the coming One, Christ, Emmanuel, your Son.  
Glory in the hi-ghest! Hol-y God, your name be blessed!**

REMEMBERING JESUS at TABLE (spoken)

AFFIRMATION of MEMORY and HOPE *tune "We Three Kings"*

**Dying Christ destro-yed our death.  
Rising Christ resto-res our life.  
Christ will come again in glo-ry, raising us all to life.  
O-h, God of power, God of might, God of love, our heart's delight:  
feed us, guide us, walk beside us, bless us with your gentle light.**

PRAYER for TRANSFORMATION of the ELEMENTS

*tune VU #64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

**Pour out your Spirit on these gifts; be present in this meal.  
Baptize with fire; our hearts inspire to love and bless and heal.  
Make us the living Body of Christ in our own place,  
in this world's night to be the light of your redeeming grace.**

CONCLUDING PRAISE *tune VU #60 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

**Pour out your Spirit on your waiting people,  
and make us the Body of your ri-sen Christ.  
Glory and honor be to you fore-ver.  
Am-en. Alleluia. Am-en. Alleluia. Am-en. Alleluia for e-ver more.**

BREAKING the BREAD and FILLING the CUP (spoken)

SHARING the BREAD and CUP

PRAYER after COMMUNION *tune VU #1 – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (Willan)

**We thank you God of My--stery  
for sacred meal, commu--nity.  
Send us forth now to share your light,  
disciples of the One of Peace!  
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

\*CLOSING HYMN: *VU #44 – "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

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(Sears/Willis)

~Joanne Diplock

- 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 humankind 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.**

**\*SENDING FORTH**

(Written by Wanda Winfield; from *Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*.)

**May the candle of peace burn brightly in our hearts,  
preparing the way for the Christ child.  
May we be signs of peace in our world,  
as we prepare during this season of Advent.  
And may we always know that we never go alone,  
for God our Creator, Jesus our Brother,  
and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer  
are our constant companions. Amen.**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

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(Price/Besig)  
~Joanne Diplock

**May the Lord go with you,  
let him take your hand.  
Keep His love within you,  
until we meet again. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** (Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~Joanne Diplock