

**St. John's United Church**  
**December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Worship Leader – Rev. Sungsoon Park

**WELCOME**

Greetings, welcoming newcomers, announcements, prayer concerns and celebrations.

We are looking for more choir members and musicians if anyone is interested in joining.

**CENTERING SONG MV # 158 Dream a Dream vs. 4**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

In this season of waiting, we light the Christ Candle, a symbol of God's love made flesh, of light breaking into the world. This flame in December's cold and darkness reminds us that

**Christ is here—our hope, peace, joy, and love.**

The light of Christ cannot be dimmed. It shines for all, now and forever. Amen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Love, in the midst of apathy - hate is not the opposite of love; apathy is.

**When apathy sets in, love is a choice. Love is a verb.**

Love is less what we feel and more what we do.

**An act of love. A labour of love.**

We come choosing love when apathy is easier, choosing love when it means it may come with pain.

**Let us pray for Emmanuel, for love that resists apathy, for wisdom to choose the way of love even when it is woven together with pain and sorrow.**

**Regular Office Hours**

10:00am-12:00pm Tuesday and Thursday

Office: 780.826.3003

E-mail: bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com

Website: www.bonnyvilleunitedchurch.ca

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

If you would like to continue with weekly offerings they can be

sent in by:

Mail to: 4510-43Ave T9N 1R4

E-Transfer to: bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com

Join PAR: Contact Stacy Mercier 780.812.6492

**This Week: December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

Worship Leader: Rev. Sungsoon Park

Greeters: Sophie Harasimiuk & Shirley Highberg

Scripture: Les Parsons

Fellowship: Doris Ulanicki & Gina Elock

**Christmas Eve: December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Worship Leader: Rev. Sungsoon Park

Greeters: Roger Antoniuk & Nestor Kunec

Scripture: Bob McRae

Fellowship:

**You sent the rich away empty.**

You come to the aid of your servant, Israel,

**For you remembered your promise of mercy, to our ancestors,  
Abraham and Sarah, and to their children in every age.**

**Refrain: To God I lift my soul in praise; in God my saviour I  
rejoice**

**SERMON****HYMN VU # 59 Joy to the World****COMMISSIONING**

How do we magnify the Lord?

**With magnificent acts of love.**

With quiet moments of grace.

**With profound movements of justice.**

With relationships of peace and forgiveness.

**With kindness to strangers and food for the hungry.**

By lifting up the lowly and protecting the vulnerable.

**By rejoicing in faith and trusting in love.**

May our lives and our love reflect Christ's presence

**and magnify the Lord.**

**HYMN VU # 65 Ring a Bell for Peace vs 1**

**Ring a bell of peace, for the babe born on this night,**

**ring a bell through the country and the town;**

**ring a bell for peace, come and see the wonderful light,**

**ring a bell, ring it merry up and down.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** (*Light candle of Love*)**HYMN VU # 7 Hope Is a Star vs. 4**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we come with love as a community of faith.

**We watch, we wait, we wonder.**

When we feel God's unfailing love, we can give love to and receive it from our families, our friends, our community of faith, and, yes, even those we find hard to love. There is enough love for all.

**We experience God's love in the greatest gift for all of us, in the birth of Jesus, who is bringing love to the world.**

As we light the fourth candle in our wreath, we breathe in the Spirit of love. (*Take a breath, then light the candle.*)

Let us pray:

**God of love, we give thanks for your unfailing love and for the gift of love in the human relationships that give our lives meaning. May we come to the manger filled with your infinite love. Amen.**

**HYMN VU # 6 A Candle is Burning vs. 4****PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*Please rise if you are able*)

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME****OPENING PRAYER**

God of ancient days and future visions, we come into your presence **to celebrate the joy of your Holy Spirit and the blessing of your Son, Jesus Christ.**

Fill us with your Holy Spirit,

**as you filled Elizabeth long ago.**

Sing through our songs of joy,

**as you sang through Mary.**

Speak through our words and our thoughts,

**that we may grow closer to the justice**

and the Jesus Christ, who calls us here today.

**In Christ's holy and blessed name, we pray. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN VU # 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs 1-4**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, you know the hunger of our hearts,

**the hurt of our world and the weakness of our lives.**

Feed us with faith and hope.

**Comfort us with love and joy.**

Forgive us with your grace.

**Strengthen us with your Spirit and give us the faith of Mary.**

For we yearn to proclaim your promises

**and draw strength from your vision of justice and peace in our weary world.**

**(ALL) In hope and trust, we pray. Amen.**

**WORD OF ASSURANCE**

Christ's love is for you, my friends.

**Christ's love is for me.**

Christ's love and grace are sure and assuring.

**May it be well with our souls. Amen.**

**COMMUNION LITURGY** (*insert*)

**HYMN VU # 28 Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERING**

**DEDICATION SONG # 541**

**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.**

**DEDICATION PRAYER**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Micah 5:2–5 pg. 900**

**Luke 1:39–45 pg. 74**

**RESPONSIVE READING Luke 1:47–55 pg. 898**

***Refrain: To God I lift my soul in praise; in God my saviour I rejoice***

My soul proclaims God's greatness,

**My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.**

For you have looked with favour on your lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed.**

You have done great things for me, O Most Mighty.

**Hallowed be your Name!**

You have mercy on those who fear you,

**From one generation to another.**

***Refrain: To God I lift my soul in praise; in God my saviour I rejoice***

You took action with a strong arm.

**You scattered the proud in their conceit.**

You pulled the mighty from their thrones.

**You raised the lowly.**

You filled the hungry with good things.