

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT LITURGY:

One: As we prepare for Christ's coming, we remember that Christ modelled love by seeking justice for those on the margins.

All: We come with a desire to love everyone, even when it's hard.

One: We light the fourth candle of Advent, a symbol of God's love, which knows no boundaries.

* Light the candle of love

One: May the light of this candle inspire us to act towards our neighbours near and far in loving and justice-seeking ways.

All: Holy One, we love because You first loved us.

By the power of your Spirit, commit us to love in action in service of our neighbours. Affirm within us a dedication to show your love to the world, in both word and deed.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: #119 Hope is a star Verse 4 only

Responsive Call to Worship:

One: God who spoke to Mary and Elizabeth,

All: speak your Word to us now.

One: God who blessed them with new life,

All: bless us with great expectation.

One: God who gave them songs of praise to sing,

All: receive our joyful praise.

One: God who loves beyond all measure,

All: we are here to worship you with hearts full of love.

Unison Prayer of Approach: O God, our Saviour, with Mary, our spirits rejoice in you this day, for you look with favour on your people. You have done great things for us. You have scattered the proud and lifted up the lowly. You have filled the hungry with good things, and kept the promises made to our ancestors.

Your mercy is known from generation to generation.

And so, we praise and magnify your holy name and worship you as Creator, Christ and Spirit. Amen.

HYMN: #706 Come, Let Us Sing All Verses

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together) Although we have found love in Christ, we are a people divided against ourselves and against one another. We have not loved as you love us and we have too often been careless with our words, our bodies and how we treat others and your world. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord have mercy upon us. Heal us, forgive us and set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): Hear and believe the Good News: our sins are forgiven and we are a new creation, the old life is gone, the new life has come; know that you are forgiven and have the courage and love to forgive others.

THE PEACE of CHRIST

-Please take time to greet one another

CHOIR ANTHEM

HYMN: #165 O Little Town of Bethlehem All Verses

SCRIPTURE READING: Ruth 1:22
1 Samuel 16:6-13
Luke 2:1-7

SERMON: "An Unlikely Place of Unlikely People"

OFFERING: The offering can be placed on the offering plates at the back of the church before or during the service, or at the front after the service.

DOXOLOGY #172 - Verse 3 - Offering is brought forward.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison) God of life and love, receive our gifts as tokens of our love for you and signs of our willingness to share that love in the world around us. Bless our lives as well as our gifts, so that we may be a blessing to others for the sake of the Christ Child, our loving Saviour.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION: God of all life and each life, as we move towards a new year, let us have a strong sense of your presence as we celebrate Christ's birth. With the tenderness of your Spirit, lighten our burdens, and show us new possibilities for our own lives and for the ministries we take up in Jesus' name, for we find confidence in the prayer he taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please follow the insert.

HYMN: #166 Once in Royal David's City Verses 1,2,3

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Join us for refreshments in the West Transept.

**Christmas Eve Community Service of
Lessons and Carols**

December 24 at 7:00pm

Celebrating the Reason for the Season.

All ages are welcome!

Sunday, December 29 - Café Church

Join us in the Banquet Hall at 10:30am.

Please bring something to share—muffins, loaf, cheese, fruit.

Coffee, tea and juice provided.



KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

December 22, 2024. Advent 4

Minister: Pastor Kelli Berkner

Music Director: Suzanne Strahan **Treasurer:** Shannon Archer

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