

Advent IV - Love  
Sunday, December 22, 2024  
"Making Room for God's Gifts"  
Hymn Sing

Introit **Come All You People** (More Voices 2)

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Words: Alexander Gondo, Zimbabwe; English Paraphrase: I-to Loh  
Music: Alexander Gondo, Zimbabwe, notated by I-to Loh; Arrangement: John L. Bell, 1995  
Words, Music, English paraphrase © 1986 World Council of Churches. Used by permission.  
Arrangement © 1995 by WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.*

Come all you people,  
come and praise your Maker,  
come all you people,  
come and praise your Maker,  
come all you people,  
come and praise your Maker,  
come now and worship the Lord. *Repeat*

Welcome and Announcements

Centring Music 'Adoration', from the collection: Star Carols  
*Music by Tom Fettke*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Today we kindle the Advent candle of love.  
**We welcome the light that pierces the shadows,  
the light that affirms God's presence,  
the light that enables us to move forward in faith.**  
Come, Holy One, beacon of love on this Advent journey;  
welcome us as we welcome you.  
**We receive the light of love.**

Choral Response **Jesus Came Bringing Us Love**  
(More Voices 33)

*Words and Music: traditional song, Cameroon; arr. More Voices 2007  
Arrangement © 2007 The United Church of Canada  
The United Church of Canada Publishing House  
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.*

Jesus came bringing us love,  
Jesus came bringing us love,  
Jesus came bringing us love,  
Hallelujah, forever more.

Morning Prayer

Hymn **Once in Royal David's City** (Voices United 62)

*Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1848, alt.  
Music: Henry John Gauntlett 1849; harm. Arthur Henry Mann; desc. David Willcocks 1970  
Harmony Copyright © 1957 Novello & Co. Limited. Administered by Shawnee Press Inc.  
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.*

- 1 Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattleshed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven  
who, with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 3 For he is our lifelong pattern;  
daily, when on earth he grew,  
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,  
tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.

- 4 And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.

A Time to Wonder

Anthem Christmas Is Coming

*words and music by Joel Raney*

Scripture Reading Luke 1: 39-55

Reflection "Making Room For Love"

Hymn of the Day **Low, How a Rose E'er Blooming**  
(Voices United 8)

*Words: German, 15<sup>th</sup> century, English trans. Theodore Baker 1894  
Music: German traditional melody 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius 1609  
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.*

- 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.

Invitation to Offering

Offering Response **Giver of the Perfect Gift**  
(Voices United 116)

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Words: from the Latin ca. 11<sup>th</sup> century; trans. John Ellerton 1891  
Music: adapt. from Orlando Gibbons 1623*

*Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.*

Giver of the perfect gift,  
Bringing love to human race,  
These our gifts, our hearts to praise,  
Gathered at thy throne of grace.

Offering Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

Parting Hymn **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**  
(Voices United 232)

*Words: Henry van Dyke 1907, alt.  
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824; adapt. Edward Hodges 1864  
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 605244. All rights reserved.*

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,  
God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
sound their praise eternally.

- 3 You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing,  
let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.
- 4 Mortals join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

Worship Leadership – Pastor Beth Parsons  
Music Leadership – Sharon Prindle-Collins and the CBU Choir  
Centring Music – Lynn Dennis  
Organ Handbells – Christine Cardy  
Welcome and Announcements – Stephen Godfrey  
Greeters – Willa Burke and Jiemei Li  
Lighting of the Christ Candle – Jay and Steven Parsons  
Morning Prayer – Jiemei Li  
A Time to Wonder – Moira Dennis  
Spirit Kids Program – Grace Cave and Moira Dennis  
Offering Invitation and Prayer – Peggy Dayton  
Technical Support – Karen Clark and Louise Johnston  
Fellowship Time – Men's Breakfast Group

### Benediction

### Choral Response **Take up His Song** (More Voices 213)

*Words and Music: Laura A. Herman, 2005; arr. Robin King, 2006*

*Words and Music © 2005 Laura A. Herman.*

*Arrangement © 2006 Robin King.*

*The United Church Publishing House*

*Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-605244. All rights reserved.*

Take up his song of love  
and go into the world  
Take up his song of love in ev'ry moment.  
In ev'ry moment of the journey,  
we're laying down our lives;  
lay them down, in love,  
lay them down and take up his song.

### Postlude He Is Born (Il est né)

*Words: trad. 19<sup>th</sup> century French carol; trans. George Evans 1963*

*Music: 18<sup>th</sup> century French carol*