

Gathering Song: VU 8 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Announcements

Welcome

One: In the Northern Hemisphere, we find ourselves entering a time when the light fades early and coldness settles in. And yet, as the darkness grows, this is the time when we who follow Jesus light candles and lights to remind us that God's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never and *will* never overcome it.

And so, we light the Peace candle (*Elder lights Peace Candle*) as a reminder that Jesus taught us to live in peace with all Creation. As the congregation of Knox United, we acknowledge that we live, work, worship and play within the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. As those who follow Jesus' path of peace,

All: we commit ourselves to upholding the Treaties of Peace and Friendship so that we will live in a good way with all peoples, the land, the waters, and all of Creation, for we are all treaty people.

One: We light the Affirmation Candle (*Elder lights Affirmation candle*) as a celebration of all the wonderful diversity in which God creates us and calls us good! In this community of faith, we celebrate that all are welcome in this place.

All: All are welcome by God's grace.

Call to Worship

One: The Advent Good News of Jesus' coming is here!

All: Like Mary, we will struggle to see whether it is relevant for us, for our church, for our neighbourhood, and for our world.

One: The Good News of Jesus' coming is here!

All: Like Mary, we will put aside our fear and affirm our commitment.

One: The Good News of Jesus' coming is here.

All: Like Mary, we will realize that this means food for those who are hungry and justice for those forgotten and oppressed.

One: The Good News of Jesus' coming is here!

All: Like Mary, we will go faithfully forward for the awesome Way of Jesus lies ahead.

One: Come, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

All: Holy God, whether it's through angels or music, friendships or sermons, study or nature— when you speak, we long to hear it. In a world as chaotic and broken as ours, we could use your words of hope and healing. So, open our lives to your word this day through song and prayer, through giving gifts and the wisdom of children and youth. With gratitude we pray, Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy:

Worship Leader: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What are you afraid of?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

Teen 1: Not being enough.

Teen 2: Not making enough of a difference.

Teen 1: Falling down.

Teen 2: That we will forget we belong to one another.

Teen 1: Climate change.

Teen 2: My child having to learn gun violence drills at school.

Teen 1: Spiders.

Teen 2: Not having someone to take care of me; not having someone who knows my stories.

Teen 1: My mental health slipping.

Teen 2: Ending up alone.

Teen 1: Nightmares.

Teen 2: Stopping short of following God all the way.

Teen 1: Today we light the candle of peace, because we so desperately need **God's peace** in the midst of all we fear. (*Other reader lights candle*)

Adult: May this light be a reminder that Christ is coming. God was with generations before, God is with us today, and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way. Amen.

Candle Lighting Hymn: We Light a Candle

Birthday Church

Christmas Pageant

Prayer

Dear God,

As we gather on this special morning, we pray that our World will soon know Peace, that people will learn to share and help one another that we grow to be better at showing our love for one another and leave the hate behind, that our families celebrate each other's differences, talents and abilities.

This we ask in Jesus' name.

Amen

Gabriel visits Mary

Carol: VU 62 Once in Royal David's City v.1

Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem

Carol: VU 64 O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv.1-2)

Jesus is Born

Hymn: VU 445 A Little Child the Saviour Came (v.1)

The Angels and the Shepherds

Carol: VU 35 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! (v.1)

The Stable and the Little Drummer Boy

Ministry of Music: The Little Drummer Boy

The Gifts of Christmas

Carol: VU 43 Go, Tell It On The Mountain

Offertory Hymn: Each of Us Have Treasures

Offering and White and Pink Gift Dedication

All: Just as shepherds and wise ones came to offer praise and gifts to baby Jesus, we offer our gifts and praise to you, O God.

Bless all those who receive these white and pink gifts with comfort and care this Christmas, and use our gifts of time, talents, and finances so that your message of love may be received here in Sackville and around this world. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn VU 28 Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness

Blessing:

One: As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.

From generation to generation, God has been by our side.

From generation to generation, we are not alone.

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying,

"Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."

May it be so! Amen.

Parting Song: MV 220 Peace Shines as the Solitary Star

+Welcome written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at Knox United, 2022. Used with permission; Call to Worship "We Will Be Like Mary" by David Sparks, Summerland, B.C. From <gatheringworship.ca>. Used with permission ; Opening Prayer adapted from "Prayer of Illumination" written by Rev. Sarah Speed. Found in "Words for Worship" in *From Generation to Generation* resource; Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy written by Rev. Sarah Speed. Found in "Words for Worship" in *From Generation to Generation* resource. Used with permission; Offertory Prayer "We Come with Our Gifts and Our Prize" adapted from Beth Johnston, Hantsport P.C., Hantsport, N.S. From <gatheringworship.ca>. Used with permission; Blessing written by Gill LeFevre, Walton Memorial United, ON. Adapted from *The Gathering: Pentecost 2:2022*, pg. 41. Used with permission.