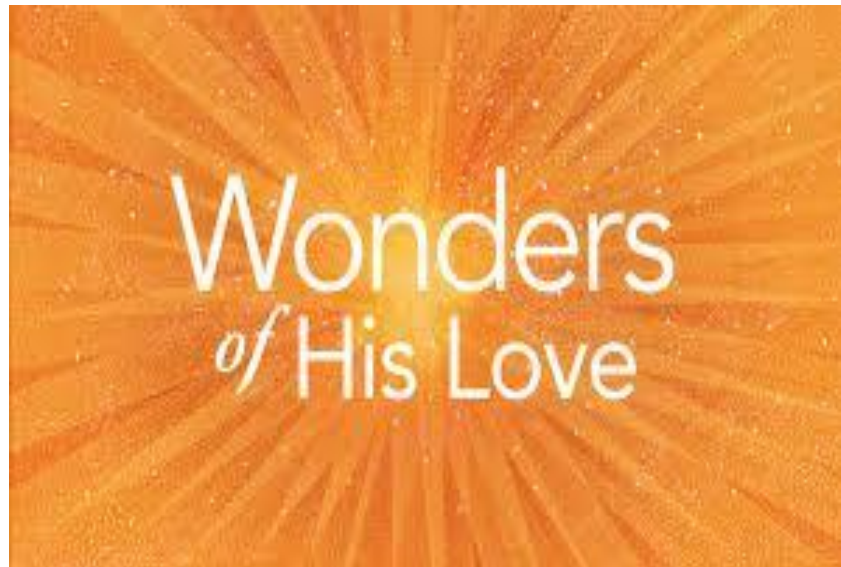


CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



Rev. Dr. Paul Currie

Advent 4

"Advent Love"

10:30 am December 19, 2021

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Rev. David King, Chalmers' Administrator

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Due to a Covid resurgence, Chalmers is again closed for in-person worshipping. The service will be posted to Chalmers' YouTube channel.

Bold Text indicates the parts that everyone reads together

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Sheep May Safely Graze – J.S. Bach

piano duet

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land. In acknowledging this land, the traditional home of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee, we seek to rebuild right relations with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land with respect and gratitude for its bounty.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Candles from Advent one, two and three are lit.

One: We are together and never alone. Gathered, on this fourth Sunday in Advent, we witness to God's deep love and tender compassion for the whole world. Our witness is love.

The Advent four Candle is lit.

All: God-who-never-ceases-to-love, kindle our hearts that we may burn anew with your love. Bless us with the flame of lively living and believing. Take our words and release them to speak of you; take our minds and broaden them to reflect your overflowing love; take our hearts and set them alight with your desire for goodness. In the name of the One full of love. Amen.



INTROIT

HYMN VU 6 *A Candle is Burning*

v. 4

A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

Word: Sandra Dean 1986 © 1986 Sandra Dean

Music: James R. Murray 1887 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you, and peace from God.

As Advent people we give thanks to the One who is faithful.

Let us proclaim the wonder of the God
who came, is coming, and will always come.

**In word, action, and with gentleness of spirit,
we celebrate the Advent of our God.**

CENTRING PRAYER

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way.
As we make our final preparations before Christmas,
clear our minds of holiday distractions
and our long list of to-dos.
Help us approach your Word with awe and wonder
so that we may hear the message
you intend for us today. **Amen.**

CAROL VU 91 *The First Nowell*

v. 1-6

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. **R**

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. **R**

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. **R**

5 Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **R**

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. **R**

Word: Eng. trad. carol, ca. 17th century, alt. Music: Eng. trad. melody, harm. John Stainer
1871, desc. and harm. Healey Willan 1926, Refrain harm. and desc. © 1926 Oxford University
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A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, Sacred Mystery, greater than words can express;
whose love for us and all creation exceeds our capacity to imagine,
open our hearts and minds. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 7: 1 - 11, 16

SCRIPTURE SONG VU pg. 899 *Song of Mary*

Luke 1: 47 - 55

- 1 My soul gives glory to my God,
my heart pours out its praise;
God lifted up my lowliness
in many marvelous ways.
- 2 My God has done great things for me:
yes, holy is God's name;
whose people will declare me blessed,
and blessings they shall claim.
- 3 From age to age, to all who fear,
such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near,
dismissing selfish hearts.
- 4 Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied,
the rich seem suddenly poor.
- 5 Praise God, whose loving covenant
supports those in distress,
remembering past promises
with present faithfulness.

Words: Miriam Therese Winter 1978, 1987 © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters
Music: Melody from Kentucky Harmony 1816 Harmony: C. Winfred Douglas 1940
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SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 26 - 38

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL VU 64 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* melody, *Forest Green*, v. 1-4

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth!

3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks 1868 Music: Lewis Henry Redner 1868
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SERMON

Advent Love

Rev. Dr. Paul Currie

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

pre-recorded

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY INTROIT VU 543 *We Give Thee But Thine Own* v. 1

We give thee but thine own,
what e'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O God, from thee.

Words: William Walsham How 1858
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PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

CAROL VU 60 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

V. 1-2

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore him O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

2 God of God, light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created: **R**

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest: **R**

4 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; **R**

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the father, now in flesh appearing: **R**

Words: Eng. Trans. Rederick Oakeley 1841, Music: attrib. John Francis Wade 1743
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COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

VU 19 *Kindle a Flame*

**Kindle a flame
to lighten the dark
and take all fear away.**

Words and Music: The Iona Community 1987 Music: The Iona Community 1987
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POSTLUDE

Forest Green (O Little Town of Bethlehem) with Jesus Shall Reign

piano duet

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Guest Minister **The Rev. Dr. Paul Currie** Paul recently retired to Bath following over four decades of pastoral ministry. These began under the mentorship of the Chalmers team of Stan Lucyk, Marg Quigley and David Cameron. He is continuing his enjoyment of choral music and serving as Voluntary Associate Minister at his former congregation, Edith Rankin Memorial.

Co-Liturgist	Linda Steinberg
Organists	Juliet Milsome, Aurora Dokken
Piano Duets	Marian Holobow, Juliet Milsome
Reader	Carol Sleeth
Hymn Singers	Barb Fletcher, Al Fletcher, Margot Craft, Paul Currie, Marian Holobow, Mary Davis Little, Janice Moncrieff, Linda Steinberg, Rob Bruce, Joan Egnatoff, Bill Egnatoff, Juliet Milsome, Anja Troje
Sound & Media Techs	Brigitta Holzschuh, Catie Doane
Technical Chair	Nick Steinberg

Please view the service online on Chalmers' YouTube channel link found on the Chalmers United Church, Kingston Home Page.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgl1tZaiRji18sFwj2P2Q>

UPCOMING SERVICES

Dec. 24: Rev. Dr. Paul Currie – A Family-Friendly service on Chalmers' YouTube channel

Dec 26: There will be no Chalmers service this week to allow everyone who has contributed to our worship in so many ways more time to spend with family. Instead, you are invited to watch a special presentation shared by Rev. Don McLean of Norwood - Westwood Pastoral Charge. Charge. Link to follow.

Jan. 2: House Church on Zoom - "What is Worship?"

