



SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH



ADVENT 4- LOVE
Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald

DECEMBER 20, 2020
10:30 am

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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Pastoral Care at SSUC:

Over the past number of years we have been blessed to have had Marylil Megginson provide pastoral care to our congregation, particularly during periods when we have been without a minister.

Thank you Marylil – we are truly grateful for the loving support and comfort that you have offered to our members, but you deserve a break! We are pleased to be able to announce now that Reverend Nan Hudson has agreed to serve as our pastoral care resource until a new minister is chosen by the congregation.

As has been the case up to now, the first line of contact for pastoral care assistance will continue to be our Circles of Companionship.

For emergency or crisis situations, however, Nan can be contacted at 613-539-3751. Welcome, Nan!



CHURCH

Sydenham Street United Church as an Affirming Congregation seeks to be a vital faith community within The United Church of Canada engaged in spirituality, justice and creativity, informed by Jesus Christ and the Bible, and discerning the call of the Trinity as we celebrate diversity, inclusivity and abundant life.

OFFICE HOURS

The Spire/SSUC Office: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

82 Sydenham St. Kingston ON K7L 3H4

SSUC Administrator: [613-542-9616 x 202](tel:613-542-9616)

Email: sydenham@kos.net

Rentals/Room Bookings @ The Spire: [613-542-9616 x 201](tel:613-542-9616)

Web: www.sydenhamstreet.ca

Online Sunday Services: www.youtube.com/user/SydenhamStreet

Bold Text indicates the parts that everyone reads together

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY



PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTRING MUSIC

CALL OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(for those joining us from home, we invite you to light four candles)

All four candles of our Advent Wreath burn brightly-
calling us to Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

**God of Love, come to us again this Advent
that we may worship and work together in love...
that we may live in love!**



VU 6

ADVENT INTROIT

“A Candle is Burning” ~ Away in a Manger

Verse 4

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.

Words: *Sandra Dean*, 1986. Music: *James R. Murray* 1887
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ADVENT PRAYER OF LOVE

Holy Mystery, Wholly Love, you keep reaching through the ages with compassion – sending once again your Beloved into this world: One who is willing to face the entangled fray of life in this world; One who is able to heal and forgive, reconcile and make right; One who is heralding hope, proclaiming peace, offering joy, sharing love beyond any expectation. Prepare us in body, heart mind and spirit. Make us ready, we pray, to recognize and welcome the One who is coming . . . the One who is already in our midst. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE



HYMN VU 62

Once in Royal David's City

Verses 1, 4

- 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.

- 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.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander Music: Henry John Gauntlett
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LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD



SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-5, 3:16



SERMON

Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald



SPECIAL MUSIC

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

GIFTS OF THE SEASON-
2020 SSUC Star Campaign

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Gracious and Generous God. We are ever grateful for all you have given us. Today we are especially mindful of those in our community who are being honoured and remembered and named in the 2020 SSUC Star Campaign. We ask you to bless the gifts represented by the stars overhead, gifts given to help this congregation start the New Year of 2021 in a healthier financial position. May all the gifts we offer and the gifts we receive be expressions of our shared gratitude for your gifts to us and our shared desire to be generous and compassionate as you are. Amen.

♪
SUNG RESPONSE

MV 191

OFFERING AND THANKSGIVING

191 **What Can I Do?**

♩ = 88 G C G

What can I do? What can I bring?

What? What can I do? What can I bring?

D G

What can I say? What can I sing? I'll sing with

What can I say? What can I sing?

C G

joy. (I'll sing with joy.) I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my

I'll say a prayer.

D D7 G G

love. I'll do my share. share.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. share. I'll do my share.

Repeats *Last time*

A joyful song of offering and dedication.

Words and music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005
 Words and music copyright © by Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy. Please visit www.paulrumbolt.com for information. Used by permission.
 Arrangement copyright © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore. Used by permission.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN VU 55



In the Bleak Midwinter

Verses 1,2

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
- 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Words: Christina Rossetti Music: Gustav Holst
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COMMISSIONING



SUNG BENEDICTION

~ F.R.C. Clarke



POSTLUDE

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Music Director & Organist

Michael Fenn

Worship Leader

Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald

With recordings by
The SSUC Choir

Our thanks to those offering spoken leadership today:

Lay Reader, Dana Charlton
2020 SSUC Star Campaign Co-ordinator, Kenn Doerksen

WE COMMIT TO THE FUTURE

SHARING OF OUR GIFTS

Offerings are gratefully received.
They may be left on the plate near the front door as you exit the
sanctuary or received online through:

Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/sydenham-street-united-church/>

or **e-transfers** to givingssuc@kos.net
or **Canada Post.**

Important: Rules We *Must* Follow When We're in the Church!

When Arriving:

1. When you enter the Sanctuary, please go directly to the seat the usher has indicated for you. Please *don't* stop anywhere to talk with anyone who's seated or move along an empty pew to visit with someone.
2. Please remain seated after you've removed your coat and hat.
3. Unless you're speaking at a lectern in the service, you *must* keep your mask on at all times

During the Service:

4. If you need to leave the Sanctuary for any reason, please move to the aisle nearest you and walk along it to the front of the Sanctuary. Exit by the right-hand door beyond the piano. When you return, please retrace this route, distancing yourself from others. You *must* keep your mask on.

After the Service:

5. You will leave through the front doors. People in the *rear* rows will exit *first*. If you have mobility challenges, you'll be helped to leave via William Street. Please put on your coat at your seat during the Postlude, so that you can move directly to the exit.
6. Please *do not stop* until you have left the building – not in the aisle, not in the doorway, not on the steps or ramp. Maintain the safe distance from others and help them to exit by leaving as efficiently and swiftly as you are able. Conversations are welcome – at a distance – once you're outside.

Thank you for obeying these rules every Sunday. We hope to maintain the privilege of attending church in the Sanctuary, and to do so we must behave safely. Then, we'll each feel safe when we're at Sydenham Street.

NOTICES



2020 SSUC STAR CAMPAIGN

During Advent, SSUC will conduct its 9th annual Star Campaign. You are encouraged to make a Star Gift by placing a message of remembrance, of thanks, of joy or sorrow in a list and also by making a financial donation to Sydenham Street United Church which will go to our General Revenues to help us start the New Year off in a healthier financial position. For each Star Gift made, a bright star will be hung in the Sanctuary.

Please use the enclosed form which will explain how to go about making your Star Gift. Let's see how many Stars we can see hanging in our church by the end of the Advent season



January 12th 2021 : The Two Church Lunch and Learn Group will meet by ZOOM on January 12th , gathering at 1:00 for announcements and chat, with the speaker starting at 1:15. Our speaker will be Jamie Swift from the Basic Income Advocacy Group. The title of Jamie’s talk is “The Role of Basic Income in Pandemic Recovery”. Everyone from Sydenham St. and Chalmers and your friends are invited to attend. If you wish to attend this event, please contact Meikle Turner at 613-542-7744 or meikle_irish@yahoo.com. This session is being held on Zoom and the event will obviously not include lunch. Please let Meikle know if you plan to attend. Meikle will send you the link to the Zoom session shortly before January 12th . There will be no charge for attending this Lunch & Learn session.

Our next Lunch and Learn meeting will be on February 9, 2021. The topic is “Racism” with Stephany Simpson, Associate VP (Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion) as our speaker



Gifts with Vision from The United Church of Canada

Are you trying to find a gift for a member of your family who has enough “stuff”? Check out Gifts with Vision!! Pick a meaningful gift from the Gifts with Vision catalogue. Gifts range from sending a child to camp in Canada to helping women entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka. Talk with children in your family about what project they would like to support.

Search on-line for “Gifts with Vision – United Church!!!
<https://giftswithvision.ca>

For more information, call Bruce Hutchinson at 613-328-3093