

Sunset United Church

An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada

www.sunsetunited.ca

December 24, 2017

Choir Leader: Nancy Edwards

Pianists: Shirley Hill and Kevin Petrychyn

Worship Hosts: Marion & Bryan Tudor

Delise & Mark Pitman

Reader: Marion Tudor

Coffee: Bev Hui

MINISTERS: ALL OF US!

With Michael Webster and Michelle McConkey

We pray that our worship is both 'child & adult friendly'.

As we worship, we give thanks to the Creator for the Earth, and we honour the Saulteaux, the Cree, and other Aboriginal peoples upon whose traditional land, now defined as Treaty 4, we gather.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Gathering Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

VU 60, verses 1, 3, 5 *

Lighting the Advent Candle

Candle Lighting Song "Love Shines as the

Solitary Star" MV 220

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Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship (inspired by Ann Weems)

In the beginning, God gave the people a garden.

And the people said,

“That’s nice. But we want more.”

So God gave them sunsets and waterfalls
and rainbows and flowers and the ability
to make their own things.

And the people said,

“That’s nice. But it’s not enough.”

So God gave them the best present of all.

God gave them love.

And God wrapped the gift in swaddling clothes and laid it in a manger. And the people said:

**“Let us come together every year to celebrate the gift of love
and to give thanks for the child, whose name is Jesus.”**

Prayer of Approach:

To this day, there are those who long for more things and who wander the mall looking for Christmas. O Holy One, be among us and within us during this hour of worship so that we may receive the gift of love and share it with those who are still searching. Amen.

Opening Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on

High” VU 38 ***

Prayer for Wholeness:

Sometimes, O God, we lack the courage of Mary, the patience of Joseph, the simple faith of the shepherds, the perseverance of the magi. Help us, in this Christmas season, to draw closer to wholeness and to you, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Blessing

On the path to wholeness, God has prepared the way. The valleys are lifted up and the mountains made low.

The rough places are made level
and the path made straight.

Thanks be to God!

Our Sung Response: "Gloria" VU 37 ****

Passing of the Peace of Christ

WE LISTEN

Special Music: *Duet with Nancy & Bill Edwards*

Scripture: John 1:1-13

Conversation time

Hymn: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" VU 58 <<*

Reflection

WE RESPOND

Hymn: "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" VU 73 <*

Our Offerings are Received

Doxology: "In Gratitude and Humble Trust"

VU 544, tune: VU 64 <

Dedication

Receive these gifts, O God, given from the good will of our hearts, and use them to ease sorrow and disappointment, to change worry to anticipation and to transform lives in your name. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Prayer of Jesus

Hymn: “There’s a Star in the East” VU 70 >>

Commissioning & Blessing

Sung Response: *Amen!*

Postlude



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