



Sunset United Church

December 22, 2019

Advent 4

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Nancy Edwards

Pianists: Shirley Hill



Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,
is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

This Advent we take this season of waiting,
Waiting for someone to gift us
With the kind of neighbourhood
We want to live in,
And we turn it into a season of action:
Of living the way we want the world to be.

The gift I would most like to give you is love.
Mr. Rogers firmly believed that
“We are all born with inherent worth and value.”
We are all worthy of being loved.
Mr. Rogers often asked people
To show him all the people

Who loved them into being.

May we be good neighbours.

May we have and give love.

May we have and spread joy.

May we have and live peace.

May we have and share hope.

“Thank you, God. Amen.”

Sing: MV#220 Hope Shines as a Solitary Star

Love shines as a solitary star,

Faith is the inner light.

You and I together mirror the Light of Lights

And illumine the pathway home.

Call to Worship

The days draw near;

The journey to Bethlehem continues

On our path so far,

We have found hope, peace and joy.

Today we proclaim love

As we gather as God’s people.

May our worship fill our hearts

With God’s gift of love.

That when we leave this place,

We will share it with everyone we meet.

Come, let us worship with joy.

Opening Prayer:

God with us, Emmanuel,

As we draw near to the manger,

Focus our attention to your presence among us.

As we consider the love, care and faith

of Mary and Joseph,
strengthen our faith.

As we prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas,
Be our source of hope, peace, joy and love.

Amen

Hymn: VU#5 All the Earth is Waiting

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation:

God of Hope,
In these shortening days
When we lose touch with the light

Thank you for Jesus.

God of Peace,
In these hectic days
When we lose our tempers over trivial matters,

Thank you for Jesus.

God of Joy,
In these frenzied days
When we lose sense of
what we really need to be happy

Thank you for Jesus.

God of Love,
In these busy days
When we lose our focus on what is important,

Thank you for Jesus.

Through the birth of the Christ Child
Light, love, hope and peace enter again into the world.
Help us to re-center our focus on this,
As we offer to you the heavy things
That weigh on our hearts at this time...

- *Silent reflection* -

Words of Assurance

Sung Response: VU#34 Come Now, O God of Peace

Passing the Peace

WE LISTEN

Special Music-In the Bleak Midwinter

Sharing the Story

Hymn: VU#7 Hope is a Star

Scripture: Isaiah 7: 10-16
Matthew 1: 18-25

Special Music-When Christmas Comes

Reflection

Hymn: VU#2 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

WE RESPOND

Offering Collection and Dedication

Hymn: VU#55 In the Bleak Midwinter (v.4)
Prayer

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Hymn: VU#59 Joy to the World

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude