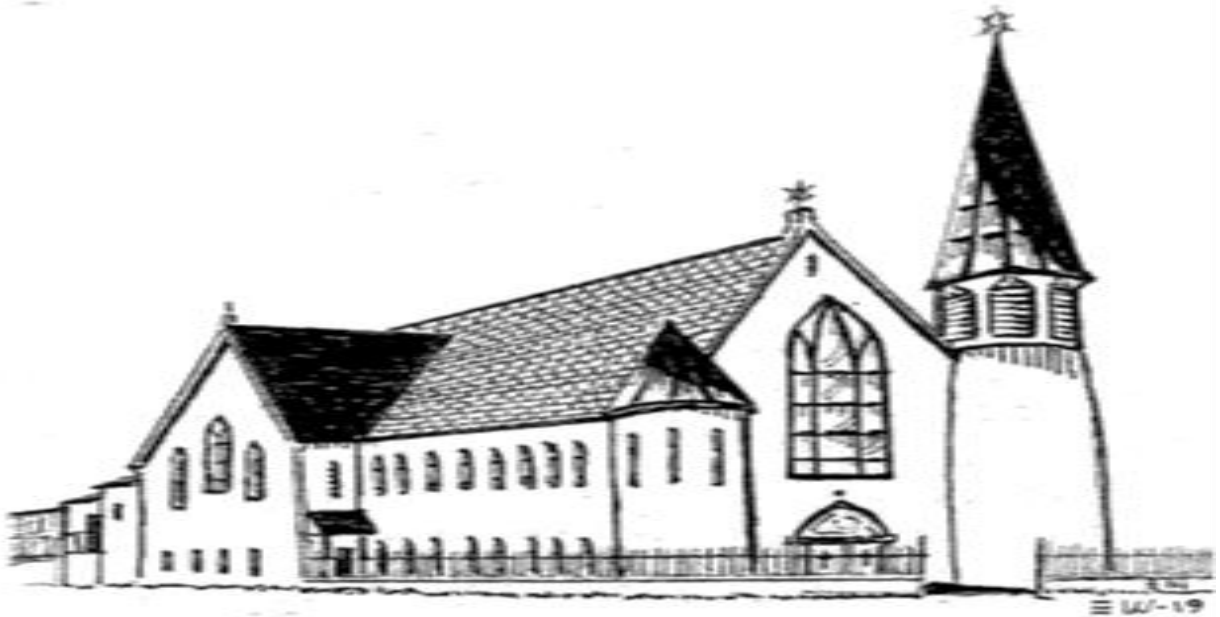


**GEORGE STREET UNITED
CHURCH
ROOTED IN THE ROCK:
TRANSFORMING FOR TOMORROW**



December 19th 2021

Fourth Sunday of the Season of Advent

Worship Leader: Rev. John Maich B.C.S M.Div.

Organist & Senior Choir Director:

Dr. Carolyn Sturge Sparkes, B. Mus., PhD

Men's Choir: Directed by William Green.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Organ Prelude: Noël Provençal----XIV Century

Introit: Prepare the Way of the Lord----M. Burkhardt

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, and Announcements:

Sharing The Peace of Christ:

Lighting the Love Candle

The first purple candle is lit.

ONE: Hope shines in the darkness.

The second purple candle is lit.

ONE: Peace breaks the power of shadow.

The pink candle is lit.

ONE: Joy comes with the dawn and the rising sun.

The final purple candle is lit.

ONE: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

ALL: Why do we light the fourth candle?

ONE: Because it is the Love candle. Its light flickering in our sanctuary unplugs our ears to hear the good news "that God shows his great love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!"

Choral Response:

**LOVE IS A FLAME THAT BURNS IN OUR HEART,
JESUS WILL COME AND WILL NEVER DEPART.
WHEN GOD IS A CHILD THERE'S JOY IN OUR SONG
THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST AND THE WEAK SHALL BE
STRONG AND NONE SHALL BE AFRAID**

***Call To Worship:**

ONE: Come all you children beloved of the Father! Come and join your voices with the whole of creation to praise God who creates, redeems, and sustains all that lives.

ALL: **With the angels of heaven, we sing your praise, with the saints that have gone before we magnify your name and give you glory. May your name be blessed forever O Holy One of Israel!**

***Hymn: VU 10 Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Opening Prayer: *(in unison)*

ALL: **From the beginning, O Lord of love, you have held us in the palm of your hands, nurturing us with your breath of life and inviting us to follow you on your holy way. Continue to call out to us, to woo us and to lure us into righteousness. Guide us on your paths and make us holy as you are holy.**

Prayer of Confession:

ONE: Let us come with confidence to God's throne of judgment trusting in God's mercy.

ALL: **We cut corners, O God. We take short cuts and hope to arrive at holiness without investing ourselves in it. We have sinned in what we have done as well as what we have left undone. We have fallen short in what we have said as well as what we have left unsaid. We have trespassed in what we have thought as well as what we have not thought. Forgive us for our faults and our failures. Redeem us through the grace of Christ Jesus. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

ONE: God has sent Jesus into the world not to condemn nor to destroy but to redeem and to restore. You are new creations in Christ Jesus and free from all condemnation.

ALL: **We cling to the promise that we have received. That a place has been prepared for us in the Kingdom of Heaven. Help us to grow and mature in our faith so that we may serve you fully. Amen.**

Children's Time:

***Hymn: VU 29 Hark The Glad Sound**

Prayer for Illumination (in unison):

ALL: Thank you God, for the ways that you have chosen to reveal yourself to us. Thank you for the whole of Creation and her testimony. Thank you for the words of your servants and their witness. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, your word made flesh and for his commandments. Touch our hearts and our ears that we may hear you anew.

Hebrew Lesson: Micah 5: 2-5 Sam Saunders

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 10: 5-10

Responsive Lesson: Psalm 80 VU pg. 794

Anthem: To be Announced

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1: 39-55

Sermon: The Upside-Down Kingdom

***Hymn: VU 215 Hope Of The World**

Prayers of the People:
The LORD's Prayer:

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Minute For Mission:

Invitation to the Offering:

ONE: Mindful of all that God has done for us from the founding of the universe we bring forward the fruits of our labour and our being. We offer our time, talents, and our treasures, for the furthering of God's Holy Kingdom with joyful hearts.

Offertory Anthem/Music: In the Bleak Midwinter----C.
Rossetti/G. Holst

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

ALL: Thank you, gentle Saviour, for accepting our gifts. Thank you for using them to serve your children near and far. Thank you for allowing us to be your agents of grace in the world. Amen.

***Hymn:** VU 343 I Love To Tell The Story

***BENEDICTION:**

ONE: As people of God, you form a community of faith within The United Church of Canada

ALL: **Within this community of faith, we are blessed and blessing.**

***COMMISSIONING (in unison):**

ONE: Go now and proclaim the good news of Christ's gospel.

ALL: **We will testify to God's creative caring and to the Spirit's empowerment and encouragement of our community. We will use our many and varied gifts to reach out to our neighbours and embody God's love for them in the world.**

Vesper: People Look East (excerpt)---E. Farjeon/French folk melody

Organ Postlude: Pastorale----D. Scarlatti