



The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

St. Andrew's United Church



December 22, 2024.

Advent 4

Our Mission Statement

"St. Andrew's United Church is a Christian Community of Faith
that shares Christ's love through
Worship, Fellowship, Spiritual Growth, and Outreach."



Advent, the Season of Waiting

< Photo Credit: St. Andrew's United Church >

188 Wellington Street. Miramichi, NB. E1N 1M4
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Church Email: St_Andrews1@outlook.com

Sunday Worship Service
(December 22, 2024. Advent 4)

Minister: Mr. Wendell Gregan, DLM
Organist & Choir Director: Lois McKinnon
Greeters: Bev Campbell & Muriel Lamkey

Advent 4 – Love

“O God, give me the humbleness of those shepherds who saw in the cold December darkness the coming light, the Advent of Love.” – A. Weems

We Gather to Worship
(*indicates to stand as you are able)

Musical Prelude

Introit:

**Will you come, gather in?
There is love – all around us.
For the proud have been scattered
And the mystery has found us.
Will you come, gather in?**

Placing of Mary & Joseph in the Manger: *Thea & Fiona Chassion*

Advent Candle Lighting: *Advent 4 – LOVE – Linda McKinnon*
(as the first candle is lit)

One the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle for Hope.

(as the second candle is lit)

Our second candle was lit for Peace

(as the third candle is lit)

Our third Candle was lit for Joy

This week we light our candle for the last Sunday of Advent,
The candle for Love.

(the forth candle is lit)

All: the Love that gives without counting the cost, the Love that weaves compassion and justice together, the Love that endures when the going is rough, the Love that was revealed in the life and sacrifice of Jesus,

L: the Love that lights up the family circle, the Love that searches out that defines our faith community,

All: Love that hugs a family close, Love that shows itself in caring and encouragement at work and school, Love that breaks out in laughter, and is felt in the silence of friendship,

L: Love within us,

All: Love around us,

L: Love that builds us up,

All: a Love that shines out as we act for the powerless and the innocent, and work for a world renewed in the spirit of Christ.

Amen.

Let us sing: VU #6, vs. 4 “A Candle is Burning”

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.

Welcome

Call to Worship: (Unison)

L: In the gospel of Luke we read the hopeful and challenging message

All: Jesus is coming: prepare for an earth-shaking event

L: Amid the preparations for Christmas, quietly challenging our priorities at this busy time

All: Jesus is coming: make space for him in the rush of this wonderful season

L: In the life of the church, at the heart of its song and prayer

All: Jesus is coming to bring the faith community alive with joy

L: To a world searching for peace, a world unable to provide for the smallest and the most vulnerable

All: Jesus is coming, challenging us to work together for universal justice and compassion.

Gathering Prayer: (Unison)

Gracious God, God of mystery and surprise and wonder, your angels burst over the lonely plains and hills where shepherds watched their flocks and you changed their world forever. In the bare and lonely places you spoke your word and filled the

world with the sound of your presence. Fill us with your word again, that we, like the shepherds of old, might be shaken to our very core. May we hear again the news of Christ's coming birth, and may we experience that rush of wonder. With fear and longing and trembling, we offer this prayer, in the holy and loving name of Jesus, Amen.

Opening Hymn of Praise: VU #48, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

An Advent Affirmation of Faith for Those Who Wonder and Wait: (unison)

When the cold white ice of winter grips me, when the white shimmering heat of summer melts me, and I doubt that anything can survive the extreme of this world's harshness, I still believe. Somewhere in the depths of my soul, despite the evidence, I believe. I believe that the ruins of life can be rebuilt. I believe that the tears I shed will water seeds of joy deeply buried. I believe that the green shoots of God's justice will bear fruit. I believe that the light that enlightens the world will pierce the winter's longest night and eclipse the sun's brightest moments. I believe that in all circumstances the Light radiates hope and joy, peace and love, so that even at my lowest points I can see. Even in the palest light of faith, I can find my way through the shadows. And for that I give thanks.

The Word of God Proclaimed

Prayer of Illumination: (unison) – *Elaine Dickson*

Open our hearts, O God. Open our eyes. Open our lives as we hear the scriptures today and as we see the message acted out. Open us to the message of Christmas. Help us live the message all year. Amen.

We Hear the Word

Responsive Psalm: Song of Mary, VU #898

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

We Respond to God's Word

Hymn of Praise: VU #38, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

The Message:

Anthem: “Do You Hear What I Hear”

Announcements: *Sally Donald*

Offertory Invitation:

It is the season of giving, not because the ads say so, but because God said so. God gave of God’s self. And Mary did, Joseph did, the shepherds, the wise men, and ultimately Jesus did. Life in all it’s fullness, hope, and significance is all about giving. We give.

Offering Received

Offertory Hymn: VU #55, vs. 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

Offertory Prayer: (Responsive)

God of hope and promise, the circle of life opens wide with welcome to the vulnerable, the needy, and all whom you call children. May the gifts we offer be signs of our commitment to help those who need what the church has to offer. Bless our offerings, we pray. Amen.

Service of Communion

Communion Hymn: VU # 64, vs. 1 & 2 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

An Invitation to Communion - *Follow along in Communion Insert*

Hymn After Communion: VU # 64, vs. 4 & 5 ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Commissioning and Benediction:

Go into this December day with expectation and joy. Expect an opportunity to show the love of God to someone who needs that love. And experience the joy of knowing that love is for you as well. May the peace of God, which goes beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds rooted in the way of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Choral Closing: VU #37, "Gloria"

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Musical Postlude



Announcements

Memorials:

In loving memory of **Marven & Jeannie McLennan**, a donation to Riverside Cemetery has been received from Helen & Alfred Steeves and Family.

In loving memory of **Marven & Jeannie McLennan**, a donation to Riverside Cemetery has been received from Ruth Mann and Family.

In loving memory of **Don Swezey**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Henry & Karen Wilson.

In loving memory of **Douglas & Anna Campbell**, a donation to the Community Kitchen has been received from their daughter, Gale Campbell.

In loving memory of **Angela Galliah**, a donation to the Food Bank has been received from Barbara Doucet.

In loving memory of **Patrick LeTourneau**, a donation to Local Funds has been received Helen Jones.

Worship:

▪ **Greeters: Dec. 24th** – Mary Reynolds & Helen Jones/**Dec. 29th** – Cynthia Duplessie & Patty Deitch

▪ **Sound System: Dec. 22** – Don Bowman/**Dec. 24** – Brian Savoy/**Dec. 29** – Barry Campbell

▪ **PowerPoint: Dec. 22** – Jennifer Walker/**Dec.24** – Barry Campbell/**Dec. 29** – Karen Rose

-**Offering Collectors: Dec. 22** - Debbie Stymiest, Moses Akinyode, Ernie & Ferne MacLean/**Dec. 24** - Helen Jones, Brian & Joan Savoy, Jeanne Breau/**Dec. 29** - Bev & Barry Campbell, Holly Daley, Judy Donnelly

▪ **Offering Counters: Dec. 22** – Betty MacDiarmid & Don Bowman/**Dec. 24** – Brian Savoy & Barry Campbell/**Dec. 29** - Betty MacDiarmid & Liz Mullin

3. Weekly Collection:

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|---|--------------------|
| Collection on Sunday, Dec. 15 th | \$ 1,635.00 |
| Weekly Par Collection | \$ 1,120.31 |
| Total for Week of Dec. 15th | \$ 2,755.31 |

This Week:

1) **Offering Envelopes for 2025** are ready at the back of the church for people to pick up.

Upcoming:

1) **Monday, Dec. 23rd – 1:00 p.m.** – Sunday School Practice for Christmas Eve Service.

2) **Tuesday, Dec. 24th – 6:00 p.m.** – *Christmas Eve Service with Daniel Szemok*

3) **Sunday, Dec. 29th** – *No Sunday School for this week.*



4) You are invited to celebrate **New** family at St. Andrew's on Tuesday, December 31st. People are invited to bring appetizers, dips, desserts etc. beginning at 7:00 p.m. The evening

will include games and other fun activities. Hope you will join us, and feel free to bring a friend!

5) **We will resume our "Hymn Sing's on Sunday, January 5th.**

Please select your favourite Christmas hymns from Voices United and be ready to sing at 10:50 a.m. We will only be doing the hymn sick every 3rd month.

Fundraisers:

1) **The 100th Anniversary Church Calendars** have arrived and are on sale through the church office for \$10 each. Limited number available.

Community:

1) **CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN CANADA:** Rev. Alice & Rev. Geza and their family moved to Canada 20 years ago this December. To honour and celebrate this happy occasion with the Szemöks, we are inviting you to join us on Sunday, December 29th at 4:30 PM at the United Church Centre, 556 King George Hwy., for a Meet & Greet, followed by dinner at 5:00 PM.

We will provide Shepherds Pie and rolls for the main course, and we invite you to bring a dish of your own. Entertainment will follow the dinner. Come, join us in congratulating the Szemóks on 20 years in Canada!!

Pastoral Care:

Rev Alice Szemok is covering for any pastoral emergencies. If you need pastoral care, please contact the church office at 506-773-9932, and Karen will arrange it.

**We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of the
bulletins in memory of Evelyn Milson
by Merle Milson and Patricia Boucher.**



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to visit the
St Andrew website.

Online St. Andrew's United Church

www.standrewsunitedmiramichi.org
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