

Yellowknife United Church
An Affirming Ministry and Congregation of
The United Church of Canada
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 18, 2016

* - rise in body or in spirit



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The bulletin this week is sponsored by Elizabeth Brace
in memory of her father, Robert Tamblyn.

Gathering

Acknowledging the Territory in Which We Gather

The Candles are Lit

Advent Introit 7 MV Gather Us In, Ground Us in You

Gather us in, ground us in you 2x

Gather us in, gather us in, ground us, ground us, in you.

Lighting the Advent Candle

(Light the three candles from the first three weeks.)

Voice One: Dear God, today I light a candle for love
in our world.

(Light the last candle.)

May it burn brightly and warmly in our hearts.

(Pause for reflection.)

Voice Two: Your love dances like the flame on this candle,
O God, reminding us of the light of your
presence which is both promised and present
in this season of Advent.

May it bring love, may it inspire love,
and may we be ones who share love in the world.

Advent Candlelighting Song

19 VU Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark

***Hymn 7 VU Love Is A Flame**

An Advent Prayer of Gathering and Confession

Words of Assurance

Even within the deepening shadows of this season, the light of God abounds. Let us be eager to sing “Gloria” and to shout “Amen” as we give thanks for the birth of the Bethlehem baby anticipated so long ago and still today. Through the birth of Jesus, God reminded us that we are never lost or abandoned, for God is with us every step of the way.

Let us not be discouraged.

Let us embrace courage and strength for the journey.

Let us give thanks to God, now and always. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer written by Bill Steadman, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016-2017, page 30. Used with permission.

Listening

The Life and Work of the Community

Christmas Pageant: Las Posadas

Responding

***Hymn 74 VU What Child is This**

Minute for Mission

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offering *Doxology* 544 VU

Prayers of the People

***Hymn 1 VU** O Come, O Come Emmanuel

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

Let us go out into the world in love.

We are not alone.

God is with us.

Love is promised in these Advent days.

Love is known deeply in these Advent days.

God bless you as you wait.

God bless you as you work for love.

God bless you as you live the life that is yours.

Your love is blessed.

Go in love.

Kate Crawford, First-St. Andrew's United Church, London, ON. Gathering: Advent-Christmas-Easter 2013-14. Used with permission.

Choral Response 221 MV I Am Walking a Path of Love

I am walking a path of love. I am walking a path of love

I am walking a path of love, lead me home, lead me home.