

Yellowknife United Church
An Affirming Ministry and Congregation of
The United Church of Canada
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 24, 2017

* rise in body or spirit



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Getting Ready

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Acknowledging the Territory Upon Which We Worship

Worship Candle Lighting

Advent Introit 34 VU Come Now, O God of Love
Come now O God of love, we are your people
Pour out your Spirit, that we be one body.

Call to Worship

One: (loud) LISTEN!

All: (loud) LISTEN!

One: (whisper) Listen!

All: (whisper) Listen!

(silent pause)

God comes to us in the voice of others;

God speaks to us in the ordinary and mundane:

In an insignificant town,

in minor acts and in words of love,

in silly, spontaneous songs,

in a chat between kin.

God, open our ears and spirits to each other

where we can listen and hear your voice.

Written by Dan Gilroy. *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2006-2007, page 27. Used with permission.

Opening Hymn 4 VU God of All Places

Advent Candle Lighting

This is the candle of hope. *(light the first candle)*

This is the candle of peace. *(light the second candle)*

This is the candle of joy. *(light the pink candle)*

This is the candle of love.

It's the candle of unconditional grace,
and companionship that speaks deeper than words

It's the candle of knowing that you are held closely,
and the candle that reaches out in love
because we are loved

It's a candle with burning light that pierces the darkness
of hatred and prejudice and division and racism,
of sexism and power and entitlement and religious
superiority.

This is the candle of love. *(light the fourth candle)*

Candle-lighting Song Jesus Came Bringing Us Love

Jesus came bringing us love 3x

Hallelujah, forevermore.

The Story Heard

The Life and Work of the Community

Learning With Children

Song 7 VU Love is a Flame

Hebrew Bible: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Canticle of the Turning: Luke 1: 46-55

Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

Minister's Log #DangerousLove

The Story Told

Hymn 134 MV Dreaming Mary

Minute for Mission - New Beginnings after Civil War

Tithes and Offerings *Doxology Tune 540 VU*

Grant us God the grace of waiting
With a spirit keen and deep
That our days of Advent living
May in faith be ones to keep

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn 64 VU O Little Town of Bethlehem

Sending Forth

Wrap yourself in your arms.
Feel your warmth –
 that life within you;
 feel your chest fill with air as you breathe –
 that life within you;
 feel your heartbeat softly thudding –
 that life within you.

Go now into the world,
 knowing the life God has placed within you.
It is a reason for hope:
 God's promise is alive in you.

God's love is breathing in you
 and the world is changing with each
 and every breath you take.

Go, and birth Jesus in your world,
 that all may be turned upside down –
 and right-side up.