

## **SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Three Versets on ‘Away in a Manger’  
(Mark Blatchly)

### **WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Brian Walter

**INTROIT** There Was a Child in Galilee  
(Dreaming Mary) (Janet Gadeski arr. Patricia Wright)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come now to worship and to wait  
for the stirrings of new life.

**We come hoping for Hope,  
praying for Peace,  
dreaming of Joy-  
longing for Love.**

This is the day...

**only a few more hours...**

Come, Lord Jesus!

**Come, and be born into our hearts  
once again.**

**Let us worship!**

**\*HYMN** Hark the Glad Sound p 7

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** (Love)

Kathryn & Owen/Carolyn & Max Yearwood  
Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the Hope,  
peace, joy and love of God to break into our lives anew  
Through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts  
of hope, peace, joy and love.

Today we light the fourth candle; the candle of Love,  
and we wait.

**We wait—not because we do not know the story of Jesus,  
and not because you are not already and always here.  
We wait because to wait is to expect something more.  
To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts  
and our world in new ways, to bring the change for  
which we long.**

*All four Advent candles are lit.*

As we light the candle of Love we remember the stories of  
your faithfulness and steadfast love which surrounds us  
and will not be contained.

**We trust that you are with us always. As love that bursts  
forth from all your people, love is born again and again  
in all creation. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** We Light This Candle (Mayberry/Kai)

**We light this candle for Love.**

**Await the new life within.**

**May our hearts now live each day,  
so Love can find a way,  
so Love can find a way.**

### **THEME CONVERSATION**

**CAROL** Away in a Manger p 7

## **FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Song of Mary VU p. 898-899 Ref.2  
(Blessed are you among women.) Joyce Hagarty

**ANTHEM** Manger Lullaby (Cyril Johnson arr. John Carter)

**GOSPEL** Luke 1:26-38 p. 56-57 Pew Bible NT  
(The angel Gabriel visits Mary.)

*Come to the quiet...a time for reflection*

**SERMON** “Yes.”

**\*HYMN** See amid the Winter’s Snow p 8

## **SHARING GOD’S LOVE**

**\* THE NEW CREED**

**\* THE PEACE**

### **OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** Love Came Down at Christmas  
(arr. Jason W. Krug)  
Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble

**\*DEDICATION** As We Offer Gifts (Tune: VU 81)

**As we offer gifts most rare  
at your stable crude and bare,  
and we bend our knee before  
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so our humble hearts we bring,  
Christ, to you our praise we sing.**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

# **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION** (on insert)

**\*HYMN** The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy **p 8**

## **\* COMMISSIONING**

And now, we go from here to celebrate Christmas,  
**sharing God's gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!**

**\*SUNG BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary Star  
Love shines as the solitary star,  
faith is the inner light.  
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,  
and illumine the pathway home. (MV 220)

## **POSTLUDE**

Chorale Prelude on 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme'  
(J. S. Bach)

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Christmas Eve—5pm

Please join us this afternoon, here in the Trinity  
Sanctuary to celebrate Christmas Eve, 'A Story Like No  
Other'. Come to sing the songs, pray the prayers and  
experience the story of Jesus' birth once again!

Christmas 1

December 31st~ New Year's Eve  
Trinity Sanctuary 11:00 am



# **AUC Church Office Closure & Christmas Offering**

Please note that the Aurora United Church office will be closed  
from Monday December 25 to Monday January 1. The office  
will re-open on Tuesday January 2, 2024.

In case of a pastoral emergency, you may reach Rev. Lorraine:  
905-727-1935 x.23(lorraine@auroraunitedchurch.ca) or Rev.  
Andy: 905-727-1935 x.22. They will be checking their email  
and phone messages on a regular basis.

This year, we are inviting you to consider an extra donation to-  
wards the wide-ranging ministries of Aurora United Church  
Your contributions, towards the life and work of our church  
community supports our broader ministries of Worship, Pastoral  
Care and Outreach. We are thankful that AUC continues to  
thrive despite our challenges. Please consider how you might  
contribute this Christmas. Your generous donation will ensure  
that our ministries will continue to touch the lives of many.  
Christmas offering envelopes can be found in the Sunday morning  
bulletin. You may also mail your donation to the church or make  
an E-Transfer. Click **GIVE** at the top of the AUC website (home  
page) for information on how to make an E-Transfer.

***Please note that offerings to be credited to your 2023  
contributions need to be received into the AUC office by  
December 31. If mailing your donation, it will need to be post-  
marked no later than December 31.***

Thank you for your faithful and continuing generosity!



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries,  
from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous  
Peoples.



# **AURORA UNITED CHURCH**



An Affirming Congregation

Church Office 905-727-1935  
[www.auroraunitedchurch.ca](http://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca)

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar  
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



**ADVENT 4— LOVE**  
**Sacrament of Communion**  
*A Thrill of Hope— the Weary World Rejoices*

**December 24, 2023  
11:00 AM**

*Gabriel's Advent message continues to ring through  
the corridors of time to both reassure and  
strengthen our faith: anything is possible,  
and, we are not alone. (S. Fosua)*

### **Hark, the Glad Sound**

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long: let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim; and heaven's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

### **Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where  
he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

### **See amid the Winter's Snow**

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see, the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

**Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn; sing through  
all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

Lo, within a manger lies God who built the starry skies, who enthroned in height sublime  
sits amid the cherubim. **R**

Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today; wherefore have ye left your  
sheep on the lonely mountain steeps? **R**

“As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light; angels singing ‘Peace on  
earth’ told us of the Saviour’s birth.” **R**

Sacred infant, all divine, what a mighty love was thine, thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this! **R**

### **The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy**

The virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a  
baby boy, and they say that his name is Jesus.

**He come from the glory, (*clap, clap*) he come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory, (*clap, clap*) he come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer! He come from the glory, (*clap, clap*) he  
come from the glorious kingdom.**

The angels sang when the baby was born, the angels sang when the baby was born, the  
angels sang when the baby was born, and they say that his name is Jesus. **R**

The shepherds came where the baby was born, the shepherds came where the baby was  
born, the shepherds came where the baby was born, and they say that his name is Jesus.  
**R**