

## **SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Come Unto Him (*from Messiah*)  
(G.F. Handel) *Susan Guido, trumpet*

## ***WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE*** ***LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE***

***Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/***  
***Rainbow Candle of Inclusion*** Josh Szakel

**INTROIT** O Ancient Love (Michael Joncas)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Brian Walter  
***“The Gift of Love”***

Love comes quietly, without fanfare,  
in the breath of a mother, in the cry of a newborn.  
It bends the proud, heals the wounded,  
and calls us to the mystery of God’s heart.  
This love asks nothing, gives everything,  
and asks that we follow, that we mirror it,  
that we carry it into the world like light into darkness,  
like warmth into winter.

**\*HYMN** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice **p. 7**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY**  
*David & Carol Lever*

On this final Sunday of Advent, we light the  
Candle of Love.

We remember that God’s love was revealed to us in  
the gift of God’s Son — a love that is patient,  
self-giving, and everlasting. As we await Jesus coming,  
we are called to reflect God’s love to the world.  
God’s steadfast love endures forever.  
God has remembered God’s covenant of mercy.  
**We rejoice in the love of God made known in Christ.**  
**We love because God first loved us.**

*“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from  
God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows  
God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for  
God is love.” — 1 John 4:7–8*  
We light this candle as a sign of God’s love.  
May this love shine through us, warming  
hearts and mending lives.  
(*The fourth candle of Advent is lit — the Candle of Love.*)  
**The Lord draws near in love.**  
**Emmanuel — God with us.**  
**Come, Lord Jesus — our Love and our Light.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** We Light This Candle (Pat Mayberry  
arr. David 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.**

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL & THE LORD’S PRAYER**  
Loving God, everyone found their place in the manger  
that first Christmas. Be with us as we search for our  
place in the story and as we welcome Jesus into our lives.  
Lead us to the manger where we will once again be  
reminded that we, too belong there; embraced in  
your love.  
**God of Grace, as we get closer to Christmas, to the  
celebration of Jesus’ birth, we find ourselves getting  
more and more restless, feeling more and more  
pressure to “get it done” and “be prepared”. We  
know this is not what we are “supposed to do”  
and yet it is the reality for many of us.**  
**We want Christmas to be right, to be perfect, to make  
everyone happy. Remind us O God, that it is you that  
makes Christmas JUST as it is meant to be. Remind  
us that the love you gave the first Christmas day is the  
same love you continue to shine on each of us. Settle  
our hearts and our minds, that we might find peace  
in you. We pray the words that Jesus taught.... Our  
Father who art in Heaven. Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is  
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and  
forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who  
trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and  
the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**WORDS OF GRACE**

**TIME FOR ALL AGES**

## **FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Romans 1:1-7 *p. 152 Pew Bible NT*  
Laurie Torno

**ANTHEM** Midwinter (Bob Chilcott)

**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 1:18-25 *p. 1 Pew Bible NT*

**SERMON** *Moving Forward* Rev. Linda Wheler

**\*HYMN** O Little Town of Bethlehem **p. 7**

## **SHARING GOD’S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** Christmas Medley  
(arr. Richard Kingsmore & Ed Hogan) *Susan Guido, trumpet*

**\*DEDICATION** In the Bleak Midwinter (*Tune: VU 55*)

**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 & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

**PRAYER PRELUDE** We Call to You, O God (*Mayberry/Kai*)  
 We call to You, O God, in faith and with open heart,  
 hear our prayer. We call to You, O God, in faith and  
 with open heart, hear, hear our prayer.  
 Hear, hear our prayer.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

\***HYMN** Angels We Have Heard on High p. 8

## \*COMMISSIONING

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

**POSTLUDE** Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion  
 (*from Messiah*) (G.F. Handel) *Susan Guido, trumpet*

### A prayer by Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.  
 I do not see the road ahead of me nor do I really know  
 myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will  
 does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe  
 that the desire to please You does in fact please You.  
 And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that  
 desire. And I know that if I do this, You will lead me by  
 the right road though I may know nothing about it.  
 Therefore will I trust You always.

A special thank you to Mary Munro for creating the  
 Advent Candle lighting liturgy this year.

## Advent & Christmas Services AUC @ Trinity Anglican Church

Carols by Candlelight - December 21, 2025 - 4 & 7:30pm  
 Christmas Eve - December 24, 2025 - 5 pm  
 Christmas 1 - December 28, 2025 - 11 am  
 Epiphany (Communion) - January 4, 2026 - 11 am



## Mission and Service An Advent Message from Children

Last year, a small gift reminded us just how powerful  
 generosity can be. We received a cheque for \$125 from a  
 longtime M&S donor. But the money didn't come from her...  
 it came from her three grandchildren. They had gathered loose  
 change from around their house. They were told they could  
 spend it on anything they wanted. Instead, they chose to send  
 it all to help children in Ukraine. "They decided to send it to  
 help children in need." That story was a reminder of  
 something that already lives within us. We don't need to be  
 taught how to care. God created us for compassion, and  
 sometimes it takes the perspective of children to remind us of  
 that. That same spirit of generosity was powerfully echoed at  
 General Council 45, where youth delegates from across the  
 country shared their hopes for the church. They spoke of a  
 church that is more than buildings, one that adapts boldly to  
 God's call. They imagined a church that cares deeply about  
 the world beyond its walls and is committed to real change.  
 They envisioned a community that places the needs of the  
 vulnerable first and uses its resources to serve others. Their  
 voices reflected the heart of M&S: meeting people with  
 compassion, supporting partners who respond to crises, and  
 working for justice and healing in Canada and around the  
 world. The dreams of these young leaders, and the generosity  
 of children who share what little they have, show the kind of  
 future the church can build when people join their sparks.



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. Tim Dayfoot & Rev. Linda Wheler  
 Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



**ADVENT 4 (Love)**

**December 21, 2025  
 11:00 AM**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice **VU 35**

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

O Little Town of Bethlehem **VU 64**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Angels We Have Heard on High **VU 38**

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
**Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? **R**

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. **R**

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. **R**