

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Announcements

Gathering Song:

Lord, we come to worship you,
Drawn by Your inviting light,
Come to praise You and rejoice,
For Your gift of Love divine,
Born to earth a little child,
Born for us the Christ of God.
(tune VU#81)

Call to Worship:

Leader: In this Advent season we recall that when God's Anointed One comes,

People: ... the desert will rejoice, and flowers will bloom in the wasteland.

Leader: When God's Promised One comes,

People: ...tired hands will receive new strength, and fearful ones will find fresh courage.

Leader: When God's Chosen One comes,

People: ... the lame will leap and dance; the blind will see.

Leader: When God's Long Awaited One comes,

People: ... the grieving and sorrowing will be forever free.

Singing: *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* VU#35

Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer: God of Advent Promise, we gather this day to hear Your promises of peace, love, and righteousness. We praise You for the hope and possibilities of this sacred season. As we anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth and His coming again, may our preparation be faith-filled and joyous. In the name of the Holy One, we pray...

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, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Candle Lighting Ceremony

Reader 1: Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world, and the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy. (Light Candles).

Reader 2: Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

Scripture tells us "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18).

Reader 1: God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God's love is there.

Reader 2: We light this candle in Love. (Light Candle)

On this day, we remember God is Love.

Singing: Love shines as the solitary star,
Love is the inner light,
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
And illumine the pathway home.
More Voices #220

Anthem: *Holy Child*

**Scripture Readings: Micah 5: 2-5 p. 756
Luke 1: 39-56 p. 831**

Singing: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* VU#2

Reflections: Great Expectations

Singing: *Once in Royal David's City* VU#62

Presentation of Ourselves and Gifts to God

Singing: *Ring the Bells for Peace* VU#65

Doxology: As they offered gifts most rare

At that manger crude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to You, our heavenly King
(VU#81)

Offertory Prayer: Through these gifts, O God, we celebrate the joy of this beautiful season, and express its marvelous message of love and hope, peace and joy. Amen.

We come to prayer singing:

O Day of God draw nigh
In beauty and in power
Come with your timeless judgement now
To match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds,
Uncertain and afraid,
The quiet of a steadfast faith,
Calm of a call obeyed.

We bring our prayers to God

**Singing: *Il Est Né* VU#50
(Chorus in French & Verses in English)**

Benediction

The Staff of St. Andrew's takes this opportunity to extend our desire for you all to have a joyous Christmas and a happy and fulfilling New Year! God bless you!

We extend the hand of Christian Fellowship to our visitors & ask you to sign the visitors' book. We hope you'll return next Sunday. You are invited to Memorial Hall for coffee & conversation. Serving you this morning is the Session.



Please Pray For: The family of Neebin Armstrong, Arthur Allan, Antoine, Pat Ashworth, Shelley Baumann, Barbara Batten, Bernice, Brigitta Blersch, Greg Blersch, Robin Blersch, Bonnie, Esther Bohlein, Larry Brazier, Leah & Chris, Liam Broomer, Carol, Caroly, Rick Cessford, Laura Cuthbertson, Dianah, Milt Dodds, Carol Epps, Mary-Alice Epps, Ron Epps, Larry Falcon, Gail, Linda Gallant, Rebecca Gilles, Dan Gingras, Gladys, Colette Humphries, Schofield Jackson, Jennifer, Fern Lafontaine, Lance & family, Roger Laplante, Marie Loch, Jemma Mahabir, Clarence Mahaney, Carrie Marchand, Marcelle, Marisa, Laura McLean, Mile, Michael, Cheryl Miller, Sharon Miller, Jamie Moreau, Sandra Murphy, Don Nielsen, Ib Nielsen, Paige, Harley Parkinson, Patrick, Julie Patterson, Sarah Puskas, Ella-Mae Ramsey, Bruce Rathwell, Cheryl Rogers, Bruce Ryan, Eileen & Donald Sim, Heather Sim, Reynold Skeete, Dylan Stanamir, Madeline Stevens, John Taylor, Jan Verschoote, Margaret Whittal, Joanne Wilken, John Wiwcharyk, Shirley Yarnell, Sarah Zimmerman.

Announcements

- **Next Sunday, December 30**, for our worship service we hope to have an informal service in Memorial Hall over hot chocolate, etc. and leftover goodies you might want to share. Please come and join us for a time of fellowship including some carol singing, sharing of memories, and anticipating God with us (Immanuel) going into the New Year.
- **Subscriptions to the Upper Room (\$15) and the Observer (\$25) are now due. Please pay at the office.**
- **Start the New Year off with a beautiful church Calendar -- \$8 each.** Thank you for helping to support the church with your purchase. We have only 8 left. – See a UCW member or ask at the office.
- **Our pantry has been helping some needy families at this time of year but it's getting pretty bare these days.**
- During **stormy weather** please check CJAD for possible church closures. We will also notify you by email (if the office has your address).
- Please save your nickels and dimes to support the **Sunday School.**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Friday 8:00 pm AA Meeting

St. Andrew's United Church
46 Dupont St. West, Chateaugay QC J6J 1G3
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ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

185th Anniversary Year ~ 1833-2018
~WORSHIP~
December 23, 2018 ~ 10:30 am

Advent IV ~ Love



Minister: Rev. K. Alice McAlpine
Director of Music Ministry: Doreen Gilbert Bangs

To greet you ~

Elder: Sophie Cessford

Stewards: Andrew Ford & Cliff Henderson