

Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada
Fourth Sunday of Advent
24 December 2023



We Come and worship God.

We go our way with souls nourished.

Officiant: Ginny Schleichauf

Organist: Dorothy Miller

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December 24, 2023 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
Officiant – Ginny Schleihauf — Organist – Dorothy Miller

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - CANDLE OF LOVE

Gathering Carol #98 *Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Hope, Peace, and Joy)

Advent 4 -Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Love. Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's perfect love in human form. Those who believe in him and live in him, live in love. Love transforms and perfects all things. It never ends.

We light this candle today to remind us that God is love. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, for the joy he pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

Lighting of the Fourth Candle (Love)

Leader: Let us pray: O God of love, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. Grant that we may so dwell in him that His perfect love fills our entire being. Make our worship a time in which we celebrate your love and are made ready to show that love to the whole world – both today and forevermore. **Amen.**

All sing: "A Candle is Burning"

Words by Sandra Dean, 1986. Tune by James Murray 1887 (public domain)

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth**

Service of the Word

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God, let us confess our sins.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Officiant: Merciful God, grant to us, your faithful people, pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us reconcile to God and one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Collect of the Day

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading II Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89 1-4, 19-26

(Response in bold.)

Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

'I will establish your line for ever, and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: "I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong.
No enemy shall deceive him, nor any wicked man bring him down.
I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.
My faithfulness and love shall be with him, and he shall be victorious through my name. I shall make his dominion extend from the Great Sea to the River.

He will say to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

Second Reading Romans 16: 25-27

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel Luke 1: 26-28

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO LUKE

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and

of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Christ

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

Sermon Hymn # 155

From East to West, from Shore to Shore

(vs, 1, 2, 3 and 7)

Officiant: Let us confess our faith as we say.

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For Todd our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for...

Hear us, Lord.

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. *(The people may add their own thanksgivings.)*

We will exalt you, O God our king;
And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Offertory Hymn # 125

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Offertory Response

What Can I Give Him

People: Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Officiant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant: Glory to God

People: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than
we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to
generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever
and ever. Amen.

Announcements

Recessional Hymn # 148

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us all with joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sung Benediction

Go Now in Peace

(in the back of the blue Hymn book)

The flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God from Sally and Rev Ray Jenkins in memory of our parents, Marion and Manley Samson, and Doris and Newton Jenkins and Aunt Alice Jenkins.

The Christmas Wreath on the front of the pulpit is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our many family members and friends at this blessed Christmas Season, a gift of the Heasman family.

Please enter names in the **Intercessions Book** each week to be read in the service.

NEWS AND EVENTS

- Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by **11:00 a.m. Tuesday** of each week email canondavis@gmail.com or call 519-344-9531.
- If you would like to contact Rev'd Jon Forbes or would like a home visit with Communion or know of someone who would, Rev'd Jon may be reached at 1-905-818-9488 or email jonforbes@outlook.com
- **The Church calendars for 2024** are available at the back of the church. Cost: \$6.00. And, there are also cookbooks available for purchase. Please see Ginny Schleihauf or Sheree Hayter.

Upcoming Events

Reminders: December

- Dec 24** **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 pm.** HE –
Rev'd Jon Forbes
- Dec 25** **There is no Christmas Day Service**