

# Bayview United Church

2609 Bayview Avenue

Toronto, Ontario M2L 1B5

416-447-5941 office@bayviewunitedchurch.ca

## Worship Service

### Zoom Audio Call

Call: 647-374-4685

ID#: 896-7180-8158#

Participant ID: Press #

Password: call or email office

Or <https://zoom.us/j/89671808158>

**Music Director:** K. Quinton

**Minister:** Rev. C. Cooper

## Advent IV: Candle of Love

### White Gift Sunday

Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 11:00 a.m.

#### Moment of Silent Reflection:

**Determination** is the power of intent that drives our dreams. It is the strength of will to act with resolve. We focus our energy on a purpose and persevere until we meet our goal. Determination is the commitment to follow through, until we accomplish our purpose. We care about something so much that even when difficulties arise, and things don't come easy, we keep on keeping on. If one path doesn't work we try another way. We don't allow ourselves to get distracted or to go off track. We complete the tasks we choose to do. With determination we will succeed. (The Virtues Project)

## Page 2 Praising God

**Prelude** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"  
E. Sears/R. Willis (With "O, Jesus So Sweet" Bach)  
arr. J. Martin



### Words of Welcome

#### Call to Worship

Let us take a moment to quiet our thoughts as we prepare our hearts for worship...

Love comes to us each Christmas and we are filled with awe and wonder as we anticipate the celebration of Christ's sacred birth into our lives once again.

Love fills our hearts at Christmas so we can listen for the voice of the angels and look for the signs of God's coming in the people around us.

Come, Lord Jesus, come and surprise us with hope, peace, joy and love as we worship this day!

May Your love touch and inspire our lives as we gather in Your name.

Page 3

**Opening Prayer (together)**

**God of the coming One, Your labour of love has begun. Soon the earth will be in the throes of new birth. You have promised a child leaping in the world's womb will exceed our hopes and expel our fears. May we, like Mary, celebrate Your promise of new life. Help us support one another as we open our hearts to feel the love and mystery of this season. Amen.**

**Hymn (1) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 1 & 2**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go. **R**

**Advent Candle Lighting "Candle of Love"**

C. & D. Ariyadasa  
and S. and J. Cermak



Page 4

**Candle Hymn "Give Us Love for Our World"**

(tune: Give Us Oil)

Give us love in our world, we are hurting,  
Give us love for ourselves, we pray,  
Give us love flowing out towards others,  
Give us love in our lives today.

**Chorus: Light a candle, light a candle  
Light a candle while we wait and pray.  
Light a candle, light a candle,  
Light a candle of God's love.**

**Prayer for Grace (together)**

**God of awe and wonder, God of dreams and hopes, we rejoice in Your presence. Burst through our hearts and remove our resistance to Your way of doing things. Free our minds from the need to understand everything before we act. Give us our own "aha" moments of spiritual awakening. Fill us with the grace to receive and risk more love. May we, like Mary and Joseph, be servants of Your purpose and vessels of Your blessing. Amen.**

**Assurance of Grace**

God reaches out to each one of us and fills our hearts and minds with hopes and dreams for the future. May we use this gift so that we may be the blessing that brings God's love and light to the world. Amen.

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 1:18-25 J. Cermak  
(Joseph honours God's messenger.)

**Solo** "I'll Be Home for Christmas" Gannon/Kent  
P. Tibbles Cookson, Mezzo Soprano

**Sermon**

“God With Us”

Rev. Cooper

**Hymn (62)** “Once In Royal David’s City” vs. 1, 2

- 1 Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven  
who, with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

**Responding to God**

**White Gift Offering** “Eva’s Place”  
**Prayer of Thanks**

**Story** “The Three Wise Guys”  
Adapted from a book by Mike Thaler  
Slide Show presented by the Youth Class  
Narrated by T. Takasaki



**Hymn (91)**

“The First Nowell”

vs.1, 2, 3

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.**
- 2 They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **R**
- 3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. **R**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Choral Amen** (tune: 48 Hark! the Herald...Sing)

**In this Advent time of waiting,  
May we serve the Prince of Peace.  
Share His love with those around us,  
Joy and hope in all increase.  
Dream the vision, tell the story,  
Healing bring to those in need.  
Share the promises once more,  
Christ is near, who came before.  
Advent comes, the time is here,  
Jesus Christ will soon appear.**

**Postlude** “We Three Kings” J. H. Hopkins, Jr.  
A. Graham, piano

\*\*\*\*\*

## Page 7

**Thank you** for joining our Zoom audio and video worship service today. We hope you found the worship service a meaningful experience.

**Many thanks** to B. Kai and J. Brooker for coordinating our Zoom audio and video service. Thanks to C. & D. Ariyadasa and S. & J. Cermak for reading our Advent IV Candle liturgy. Thanks to J. Cermak for reading our scripture lesson. Thank you to K. Quinton, L. Lazar, and P. Tibbles Cookson for inspiring us with their music.

**Our thanks** to the youth class under the leadership of R. Graham for putting together a special Christmas slide presentation. It is wonderful having you sharing this story with us in the service today. Well done!

**Special thanks** to A. Graham for playing the piano so beautifully for our Postlude. It is a joy to have you playing today.

**Special thanks** to K. Sumiya for sharing your wonderful artistic talent in our bulletin. So nice!

**White Gift Project: On White Gift Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**, you are invited to give a financial contribution to support projects at Eva's Place. \$15 for a Personal Hygiene Kit; \$30 for a Harm Reduction Kit; \$50 for a Safe Bed for a Night; \$63 Feed a Youth for 2 Weeks; \$80 Two Weeks of Transportation; \$150 Fresh Start for Beginners; \$360 Feed the Shelter for a Day. Thank you for your support!

## Page 8

**Today, Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, Advent IV, the candle of Love** will be lit and we will celebrate **White Gift**. Money donations will go to support Eva's Place. The youth will have a special presentation for us.

**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Service** with carols, solos, scriptures, Christmas drama reading and the Christ candle lighting. Together we will celebrate and hear the Christmas story once again!!

**Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, carol service** to sing your favourite carols. Please email or call Rev. Cooper with your favourite carols **by Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>**. We will try and sing as many as possible.

**Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**, we will celebrate Epiphany Sunday, the day when the Magi visit the Christ Child.

**Prayers and Concerns:** Please remember in your prayers all those in need of hope, comfort and healing.

**BUC Prayer Group:** These individuals offer confidential prayer support to anyone who is in need of God's healing love, support and compassion in their lives. Prayers may be for a relative, a close friend or yourself. Please contact E. Turnbull or R. Shikaze with your prayer request. Thank you.

**Donations for 2020 Tax Receipts** - due to the ongoing delays caused by Covid-19 we would like to

## Page 9

let you know that only donations postmarked or received at the Church by December 31, 2020 will be entered for the 2020 tax year. Anything arriving after December 31 or with a postmark after December 31 will be accounted for as a donation in 2021. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you in advance for your consideration.

**We will continue** to offer Zoom audio and video worship services. Our priority is to keep everyone safe and well. This also means everyone who would like to attend our services is able to do so from their homes.

**Our Church Administrator**, M. Leone, will be in the church office Mon., Wed., Thurs. and Friday from 10 to 3 p.m.

**God bless you**, stay well, stay safe and we hope you tune in next week...same day, same time, and same Zoom phone number or video link.



By K. Sumiya

**Have a blessed day!!**