

Bayview United Church

2609 Bayview Avenue

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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>

Church Administrator: M. Leone

Music Director: K. Quinton

Minister: Rev. C. Cooper

Advent IV: Pre-Christmas Service with Special Music and White Gift Sunday

Sunday, December 19th, 2021 11:00 a.m.

Moment of Silent Reflection:

Love is at the centre of our being. It is the vital force that gives us energy and direction. It connects one heart with another. Love is irresistible attraction and affection for a person, a place, an idea, or even for life itself. Love is cherishing others, treating them with tenderness. Love thrives on acceptance and appreciation. It has the power to heal. It calls us to continually hone ourselves, while releasing the need to control or make someone in our image. Nurtured by commitment and seasoned by kindness, love is our greatest gift. (The Virtues Project)

Page 2 **Praising God**

Prelude "Once in Royal David's City"
Henry J. Gauntlett, arr. Rodney Abriol



Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

God of Love, You are so close, we can feel You;
Like children on tiptoe, breathless with anticipation
at the wonders in store for us.

We don't want to miss any of the celebration.
Open your ears and listen for the voice of the angels.
Look for the signs of God 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.

Opening Prayer (together)

God of Abiding Love, as we rush to complete our Christmas preparations and hear the carols playing all around us, keep us close to You, that we may know a peace and joy that we ourselves cannot create. Help us to be open to Your love, which has the power to change us into generous and compassionate people. Open our hearts to feel the love and mystery of this season. Amen.

Carol (48) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vs. 1 & 3

- 1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!
**Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'**
- 3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. **R**

Advent Candle Lighting "Candle of Love"

Takasaki Family



Candle Hymn (6) "A Candle is Burning" vs. 1,2,3,4

- 1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.
- 2 A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.
- 3 A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.
- 4 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.

The Christmas Story Video (recorded 2017)

Junior Youth Class

Carol (36) "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" vs. 1,2

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

**come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: **R**

Prayer for Grace (together)

**How far to Bethlehem? For us, thousands of miles
across Canada, across the ocean, across borders.
For the wise men? A long camel ride with an
uncertain end. For Mary and Joseph? A long,
dusty way by donkey and on foot, complicated by
advanced pregnancy. For the shepherds? Just
over the hill. How far to Bethlehem? In our hearts
farther than for our feet! All the way to peace, joy,
and love. A pilgrimage we want to make, but
something always stops us. God, forgive our
interrupted journey, stops for self, family, and
security. Lead us to Bethlehem, where Christ is
born in our hearts. 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.

Solo "O Men from the Fields" P. Colum/Herbert Hughes
K. Davidson, mezzo soprano

Hebrew Reading Micah 5:2-5a M. Kitagawa
(Out of Bethlehem in Judea will come a leader.)

Anthem "Advent Promise" Pamela Martin
arr. Jon Paige - BUC virtual chorus (Dec. 2021)

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:46-55 M. Kitagawa
(Mary sings, "My Soul Magnifies the Lord.")

Anthem "Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming"
15th cent. German/M. Praetorius
BUC Choir (recorded Dec. 24, 2019)

Story "I'm Not Scrooge...I'm Just Broke!"
Coco Chanel Read by Rev. Cooper

Solo "Do You Hear What I Hear?" N. Regney/
G. Shayne – P. Watanabe, contralto

Story "A Stranger at Table Five"
Coryne Wong-Collinsworth Read by Rev. Cooper

Solo "Silent Night" Joseph Mohr/Franz Grüber
T. Takasaki, clarinet

Responding to God

White Gift Offering Fred Victor Centre

Prayer of Thanks

Carol (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.

Commissioning and Benediction

Do not fear, for God is with you;
Do not be dismayed, for our God
Will strengthen you and help you;
God will uphold you with a righteous right hand
And give you peace. (Isaiah 41:10)
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand.
(Irish blessing)

Postlude "Mary, Did You Know?" M. Lowry/
B. Greene - arr. Jack Schrader

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

White Gift Project: On White Gift Sunday, December 19th, you are invited to give a financial contribution to support projects at Fred Victor Centre. Fred Victor Centre is a social service charitable organization that fosters long-lasting and positive change in the lives of homeless and low-

income people living across Toronto. Every day, more than 3,000 people use their programs and services. Please send a donation to BUC and mark it White Gift. We will forward one donation on behalf of the church to the Centre. Thank you for your support!

Many thanks to B. Kai, J. Brooker and R. Kunihiro for coordinating our Zoom audio and video service. Thanks to the Takasaki Family for reading our Advent Candle liturgy. Thanks to M. Kitagawa for reading our scriptures. Thank you to K. Quinton, L. Lazar, and P. Tibbles Cookson for inspiring us with their music.

Special thanks to K. Davidson and P. Watanabe for your solos this morning. It is always lovely to hear you sing.

Special thanks to T. Takasaki for playing his clarinet in our service. It was great to hear you play.

Many thanks to our choir for singing a choir anthem virtually and to J. Maisonneuve for mixing it and putting it all together. Beautiful! It is so nice to hear you all together again.

Today, Sunday, December 19th, Advent IV, the candle of **Love, Pre-Christmas Service with special music and celebration of White Gift**. Our White Gift money donations will go to support Fred Victor Centre. Thank you for your support.

Friday, December 24th, at 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Family Service with carols, solos, scriptures,

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a Christmas dramatic reading and Christ candle lighting. Let's celebrate the joy and magic of the Christmas story together!!

Sunday, December 26th, Please note: We will not have a service.

Wednesday, December 29th, 7:00 p.m. – Zoom Christmas Jeopardy Night. If you enjoy watching Jeopardy, you might you might like to play Rev. Cooper and Rev. Prebble's version. Test your Christmas trivia knowledge from your own home by using our Sunday morning Zoom link. Play individually or as a household. If you email or call Rev. Cooper, she will email or mail a worksheet to write your answers on. **Zoom in and join the fun!**

Sunday, January 2nd, Epiphany Sunday. We celebrate the arrival of the Magi who visited Jesus. We will sing some Christmas carols with other special music.

Japanese Social Services Holiday Drive. If you would like to support the Holiday Drive, please send a donation to Japanese Social Services (Holiday Drive), 6 Garamond Ct #235, North York, ON M3C 1Z5. Thank you.

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

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their lives. Prayers may be for a relative, a close friend or yourself. Please contact Rev. Cooper or R. Shikaze with your prayer request.

You can support Bayview United Church using **e-transfer** from your bank. Decide the amount you wish to donate, follow your bank's instructions & email to: office@bayviewunitedchurch.ca. In the comments section, indicate where you would like your donation to go, for example Local, Mission and Service, Easter, Memorial, etc. If you do not use e-transfer you can always mail your cheque to the church. Thank you for your support of BUC.

God bless you, stay well, and we hope you join in on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.



Have a blessed day!!