



RUTH BYRNES GIFTING TREE

We ask that you place either on or under the tree donations of mitts, gloves, hats, scarves as well as socks, T shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, or personal hygiene items. These things will be divided and sent to both the Women's Help Centre and Street Help Homeless Centre.

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday – Thursday 1:30pm- 4:00pm
Friday 1:30pm – 6:00pm

Office Administrator: **Melissa Yau**

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**Completing the New Testament:
Week of December 24, 2017
Celebration and Reflection**

Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes
Cell: 519-984-2608
Minister's Office Phone:
519-253-0003
Email: revsadekie@gmail.com



If you are interested in becoming a **member** of Emmanuel United Church please fill out a little **blue card** in the pews and place it in the offering plate.



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

If you have not already signed up for our birthday or anniversary club yet, please complete a form at the back of the church and return it to the office. Your special day will be blessed on the first Sunday of your event month.



OFFERING ENVELOPES 2018

Please take a moment to pick up your 2018 Offering Envelopes at the back of the church.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH
ADVENT IV "Love"
10:30 am
December 24, 2017

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgical Dance: "Mary Did You Know"

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God comes to in the cry of a child

P: Let every heart prepare.

L: God comes to in the whisper of a loving mother

P: Let every heart prepare.

L: God comes to us, abides in us.

P: Let every heart prepare to receive the Christ.

L: Let us worship the God who has come, is coming, will come.

4th ADVENT CANDLE – LOVE

Hymn VU 7 *Hope is a Star* verse 4

L: Today we light the candle of Love.

P: Shepherds, where are you going? Can we go too?

FAMILY: We are rushing off to Bethlehem. The angels came and told us that a baby was born. Not just any baby, but God's baby, Jesus. This baby is God's gift of hope, peace, joy, and love for the whole wide world. The angels will watch the sleep, but we've got to go. There is no time to waste. We are so excited. We are filled with joy! We must see this child, this baby Jesus. Yes, you can come with us, but you must hurry.

P: Thank you, shepherds, for your faith and gift of love. We will join you on this Advent adventure.

Hymn VU 7 *Hope is a Star* refrain
(Light fourth candle)

CONG. HYMN: VU 60 O Come, All Ye Faithful (1,3, 5)

OPENING PRAYER

L: Loving God, Compassionate Son, Healing Spirit, God of all times and places, You approach us with such kindness and tenderness,

P: You look kindly on us no matter what state or condition, Your care for this world and for us is greater than we could know or imagine.

L: And so in adoration of you we come and we pause, we rest from our work and responsibilities, and we rest from our play and from focus on ourselves, to enjoy you and our life in you.

ALL: We confess the smallness of our love, the narrowness of our concern, and the denial of your truth. Through our hands have slipped opportunities missed, people not cared for, moments and days not celebrated. Some of our sins are plain for us to see; and to others we are blind; some we cannot face and others we cannot forget. We are sorry for our failings, and ask for reassurance and forgiveness.

L: In your mercy, make us new. Give us a fresh start, and lead us in the paths of your Son. In Jesus' name we pray

ALL: Amen.

Reading– Journey to Bethlehem

HYMN: VU 62 Once in Royal David's City (v1-2)

Reading: Arrival, Announcement, Amazement

HYMN: VU38 Angels We Have Heard On High (, v1, 2, 4)

Reading: The Search

CHOIR: "Listen to the Joyful Song" by Joel Raney

Reading: The Gifts

Children come forward

CHOIR: "The Light of Christmas" by Joel Raney.

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN: VU30 Hail to God's Own Anointed (v1-2)

L: God of star and stable, you lead us to wonder and to hope. You gather us together to hear your promise of love.

P: As we gather, we offer our concerns and our dreams, our hopes and fears. Like the shepherds who sought the stable, we seek your promise of peace. We pray for your people broken by violence, those who live with fear, and those who live without hope.

L: We remember the places/events in the world, where is tragedy and suffering, and we pray for your courage to act and peace to reign

P: Like the wise ones who dedicated their gifts, we remember those in need. We pray for those who are lonely, hungry, or forgotten; for those who are ill in body and in spirit; for those who are confused or afraid. We pray for your joy and love, for all your people, especially those we remember now.

L: My prayer is...

L: Holy One, you came as a child, offering renewal of spirit and of living. May our prayers be a new beginning: for healing, truth, and trust. May we embody love that is forgiving, gracious and compassionate, May

we send back the angels' song of peace and joy. We pray these things in the name of Jesus who became the Christ

ALL: AMEN

THE OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN: VU 59 Joy to the world

OFFERTORY DEDICATION

ALL: O God who by a star guided the wise men to the worship of your Son with gifts in hand. We offer these gifts, as a symbol of our commitment to bring peace on earth and goodwill to all humanity.

CONG. SONG: VU333 Love Divine, All Love Excelling

BENEDICTION

L: And now into the world, to continue the celebrations of Christmas we go. May our night's rest be full and restorative, may our day's activities bring us the joy of Christmas and may we know and share the deep meaning of Christmas, tonight, tomorrow and every day of our lives that Christ came for all and is available to all. Christ is born! Thanks be to God! Amen

Our Thanks to:

- * All who worshipped with us today
- * Emmanuel United Church Choir
- * Our Candle lighters this morning
- * Liturgical Dancers

Liturgy and prayers adapted from the Gathering, Advent (2017-2018). Used with permission