

Welcome to the worship service of
St. Andrew's United Church, Chalk River, Ontario
on this
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Kindly enter this time centering on God, prepare to meet God.
The musical prelude is to assist you in this quiet meditative time.

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

MUSICAL PRELUDE

INTROIT: "Love Shines as the Solitary Star" (MV 220)

Love shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light. You and I together mirror the Light of Lights and illumine the pathway home.

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLES

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (VU 1) verse 1

What is Jesus like for you?

For some of us, Jesus is like a beloved child, the love of our lives and the joy of our hearts. As Christians, Jesus is Emmanuel, which means God-with-us. (A moment of silence to add your own thoughts) We wait for Jesus, God-with-us, who spreads love.

We wait for Jesus as we pray: **God of the unexpected and undreamt: You have called us here in this holy season, instill your love in our hearts. Prepare us; prepare us again so we can hear the song of the angels and see again the beckoning star. Amen (Celebrate God's Presence 1G003)**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (VU 1) verse 7

SCRIPTURAL GREETING/WELCOME

HYMN: "O Come, All Yea Faithful" VU 60 (verse 1)

The prophets foretold it: ... Together, we are the Body of Christ.

At this table, we bear witness to our faith.

At this table, ... are welcome here.

OPENING PRAYER/THREADS OF LOVE: Holy God, you are very much a sacred mystery. Through Jesus, Good News was brought for all people and we will not be afraid for we know you are with us here. We are hungry for your love which is beyond our understanding. We are thirsty for your Spirit which never runs dry. We are gathered today to be nourished by this meal. Forgive our short comings, nourish our souls and minds, quench our deepest longings. Remind us again that you walk with us every day of our lives. Amen.

Blessings to you, Creator God, who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring love and light everlasting.

Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages; your ancient promise still brings us hope.

HYMN: "O Come, All Yea Faithful" VU 60 (verse 2)

THE STORY REMEMBERED

Hebrew Scriptures: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: What does it mean to be the Body of Christ?

HYMN: "O Come, All Yea Faithful" VU 60 (verse 3)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

We have heard, ... and then passed it to them saying:

Take and eat. This bread is the body of life, broken for the world. Eat it in remembrance and love.

The bread of life. (The bread is broken)

After that, he took a cup, filled it, blessed it, and passed it to them saying:

This cup is the sign of the new covenant. Drink it in remembrance and love.

The cup of blessing. (The cup is poured)

Remembering the birth ... declare the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

HYMN: "O Come, All Yea Faithful" VU 60 (verse 4)

Blessing the Bread and Cup

Holy God, ... All are welcome to share this feast!

Sharing the Meal

HYMN: "O Come, All Yea Faithful" VU 60 (verse 5)

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU 400

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "What Child is This" VU 74

BLESSING

Three-fold Amen

"Go Now in Peace" VU 964

This Communion service is based on “O Come, Emmanuel - A Communion Prayer” written by **Kim Falls**, Bethel Emily P.C., Omemee, ON. Published in **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2017/18, pg 72-73. Used with permission.

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Thank you to all who joined us today.

You are invited on Thurs. Dec. 24th for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00pm here in the sanctuary (there are a few spaces still) or online. Please let Gayle Barks (613-401-1465) know if you plan to attend so seating can be arranged.

“Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are travelling the dark journey with us. Oh be swift to love, make haste to be kind.” Henri Frederic Amiel