

**Rideau Park United Church
December 18, 2022- Advent 4 Carol Service**

Prelude

Welcome, Land acknowledgement

Candle lighting

Opening Prayer

History of People Look East

Opening Hymn: People Look east 9VU

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Week Four: The Candle of Love - Nathan, Tara, Grace and Cameron Lockhart

ONE: This is the season of Advent, a time when our thoughts turn to preparation.

TWO: This is our Advent Wreath, where the circle of green tells us that God always loves us, and that God's love never ends. Today we light the candle of LOVE, for all the people who show compassion to others in this season of giving.

ONE: What is love? The story of Joseph and Mary reminds us that love breaks down borders and conventions, and finds a new way to see God at work in the world.

TWO: May God light our path with love this season. (The last blue candle is lit.)

Let us pray: **O God, we pray you will pour out your holy light on us, so we may open our hearts to those who are hurting in this time of celebration, and live with love. Amen**

Sing: 33 MV – Jesus came bringing us LOVE

Children's Time

History of "Away in a Manger"

Hymn: #69 VU "Away In A Manger"

Away in a manger
 No crib for a bed
 The little Lord Jesus
 Laid down his sweet head
 The stars in the bright sky
 Looked down where he lay
 The little Lord Jesus
 Asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing
 The baby awakes
 But little Lord Jesus
 No crying he makes
 I love you, Lord Jesus
 Look down from the sky
 And stay by my cradle
 Until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus
 I ask you to stay
 close by me forever
 And love me, I pray
 Bless all the dear children

In your tender care
 And fit us for Heaven
 To live with you there.

Scripture reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Music:

Carol Sing

History of "What Child is This?"

Hymn: #74 VU "What Child Is This?"

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
 While shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the King,
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
 Where ox and donkeys are feeding?
 Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
 This, this is Christ the King,
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
 Come, peasant, king, to own him.
 The King of kings salvation brings,
 Let loving hearts enthrone him.
 This, this is Christ the King,
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
 The babe, the son of Mary.

History of Good King Wenceslas

Christmas Carol: "Good King Wenceslas"

Good King Wenceslas looked out
 On the feast of Stephen
 When the snow lay round about
 Deep and crisp and even
 Brightly shone the moon that night
 Though the frost was cruel
 When a poor man came in sight
 Gathering winter fuel

"Hither, page, and stand by me
 If thou know'st it, telling
 Yonder peasant, who is he?
 Where and what his dwelling?"
 "Sire, he lives a good league hence
 Underneath the mountain
 Right against the forest fence
 By Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh and bring me wine
 Bring me pine logs hither
 Thou and I will see him dine
 When we bear him thither."
 Page and monarch forth they went
 Forth they went together
 Through the rude wind's wild lament
 And the bitter weather

"Sire, the night is darker now
 And the wind blows stronger
 Fails my heart, I know not how,
 I can go no longer."
 "Mark my footsteps, my good page
 Tread thou in them boldly
 Thou shalt find the winter's rage
 Freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod
 Where the snow lay dinted
 Heat was in the very sod

Which the Saint had printed
 Therefore, Christians all, be sure
 Wealth or rank possessing
 Ye who now will bless the poor
 Shall yourselves find blessing.

History of Hymn #71VU 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime/Huron Carol

#71VU 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

We gather at midwinter dark to share this hallowed night.
 Within our longhouse, warm and dry, the fire glows with light.
 Our Elders sing a teaching song;
 it fills the night that seems so long:
 This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
 shining stars proclaim the dawn.

Sky Woman came down from above, but found no place to stand,
 till Toad put mud on Turtle's back, and that became the land.
 Sky Woman died in giving birth;
 her holy body fed the earth.
 This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
 shining stars proclaim the dawn.

A valiant Little Turtle rode a cloud up to the sky;
 she used the lightning to make fire, and made our Sun to shine.
 He journeys 'neath the world we see,
 returns to make the shadows flee.
 This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
 shining stars proclaim the dawn.

The Black Robes came from lands afar, and told us of a day
 Judea had been colonized, and Rome must be obeyed.
 A mother bore a child of light;
 rejoicing filled the starlit night:
 This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
 shining stars proclaim the dawn.

Rejoice! Have courage one and all! The stars shine overhead,
 the same stars that shone down upon a baby's humble bed.
 The infant grew to be a man;
 his words, like stars, light many lands.
 This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
 shining stars proclaim the dawn.

History of the Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

***Hymn: #43 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

**Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born**

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light (ref)

The Shepherds feared and trembled
When low above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Saviour's birth. (ref)

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent our salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. (ref)

Prayers of the People

Music

The Life and Work of the Congregation

History of Joy to the World:

Hymn: 59VU Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,

repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude