



## Gathering Music

## Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

## Candle Lighting

## Call to Worship

**Advent Candle Lighting:** The Conroy/Moore family

For the last three Sundays, we have lighted the candles of our Advent wreath, and we have heard God's promises for hope, peace and joy in our world.

*(Light the first three candles)*

But in the midst of our celebrations, we heard news of a terrible tragedy... a crime of Anti-Semitism... an act of hate. Lives were lost because someone brought darkness into a celebration of light.

As we remember Jesus with our Advent candle flames, we honour the Jewish people who through the centuries, have continued to light their menorahs in faith; symbols that God's light continues to shine in the darkness when all seems lost.

Today, we light the fourth candle, the candle of Love.

*(Light the fourth candle)*

Let us pray:

**May our prayers today**

**surround all those who grieve, with love.**

**May the love we experience in Jesus,**

**move us to build a world**

**where all people can live together in hope and peace;**

**a world where joy shines brightly once again. Amen**

**Sung Response:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel VU 1 verse 1,2,7

**Responsive Reading:** *based on I Corinthians 13*

Friends, the Apostle Paul reminds us of a more excellent way, a love that surpasses all gifts and understanding. "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

**We confess our tendency to boast, to be envious, or to seek our own way.**

But we hear God's voice today: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

**"Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."**

Let us worship the God who is love, whose boundless, patient, and kind love calls us to live fully, to trust completely, and to love eternally.

**Let us worship God together, in love!**

**Hymn:** Jesus Came, Bringing Us Love MV 33 verse 4

Jesus came, bringing us love,  
Jesus came, bring us love.  
Jesus came, bringing us love,  
hallelujah forevermore!

### **Children's Time**

**\*Hymn:** People Look East VU 9

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 1:1-7 Patricia Whitridge

**Presentation:** I've Got a Secret Brian Hall & Rev. Jim  
Written by Rev. Jim

**Music:** Jesus Loves Me / We Are all God's Children

**Message:** Where Does Love Begin? John 3:16-17

**Music:** What Her Heart Remembered Valerie & Jim Baldwin

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

**Music:** Before the Marvel of This Night Carmen Harris & Adam Sperry

### **The Life and Work of the Church**

### **The Blessing of the Prayer Shawls**

### **Offertory**

## Prayer of Dedication:

Loving God,  
gentle Father, kind and caring Mother,  
as we bring these gifts,  
may you empower them  
to reflect your unfailing love;  
bringing hope to our world  
and glory to your name. Amen

**\*Hymn:** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

VU 2

## **\*Commissioning and Benediction:**

Love God, Love yourself, Love your neighbor.  
Do not be afraid, for the Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

**\*Sung Response:** Threefold Amen

VU 969

## Postlude

### **Upcoming Services and Events**

<https://www.rideaupark.ca/news-events/calendar-of-events/>

The church will be closed from December 24 at 12pm until January 2 at 1pm.  
Rev. Jim will be available should an emergency occur.

Wed, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service I: Family-style <i>With children's choirs: Joyful Noise, Cherubs</i>	6:30pm
	Christmas Eve Service II: Communion <i>With Chancel Choir and Touch of Brass</i>	8:30pm
Thurs, Dec 25	Christmas Day Service (in-person only) <i>Led by Sharon Sanderson</i>	10am
Sun, Jan 11	Cluster Service at Emmanuel United <i>Live stream will be available</i>	10am

**rideaupark.ca**  
**info@rideaupark.ca**



**Rideau Park**  
**United Church**