

KING CITY UNITED CHURCH

*A Vibrant, Caring, Christian Family
Proclaiming the Good News of God's Love
Through Jesus Christ!*

December 19, 2021

Advent 4

(* Please rise as you are able)**

(Words in **Bold** said by all)

... WITH OPEN DOORS ...

Prelude: "Once in Royal David's City" G. Young

Welcome, Life & Work with King City UC

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Long ago, God spoke to the people of Israel through the prophet Micah, who taught us to expect the coming of God's great love into the world in One born in Bethlehem.

Through God's love, he will feed his flock and they shall receive the divine strength.

Everyone will dwell secure because he will be great to the ends of the earth.

He shall be the one of peace.

We light this candle of love, awaiting the coming of love beyond our wildest expectation and understanding.

(The fourth Advent Candle is lit.)

Let us pray.

O God of love, open our hearts to accept your love and to share that love with others, all of whom are the sheep of your pasture, your children, and our sisters and brothers. Amen.

Advent Song "Dona Nobis Pacem (Give Us Peace)" (x3)

Dona nobis pa-cem, pa-cem; do-na no-bis pa-cem!

Call to Worship

*****Hymn: "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" 64 VU**

**1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep**

**the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.**

**3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Grace

Rev. Andrew K. Lee

Friends, God is for us and not against us.
For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world—
not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Response: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (#1 VU – vs. 1)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

***** Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed**

***We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.***

***We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.***

Ministry of Music: "The King is Coming Soon" J. Paige

... WITH OPEN MINDS ...

Prayer for Illumination

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Matthew 1: 18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ *Her husband Joseph*, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the living Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Response: "Glory to God" (#37 VU – 2x)
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Time for the Child in All of Us: YAYA's recording

Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #2 VU v.3 & 4

**3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Sermon "Joseph, The Earthly Father" The Rev. Andrew K. Lee

Music for Silent Reflection

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Invitation

*****Offertory Hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter" #55 VU – v.4**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

*****Offertory Prayer in Unison**

**You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair
into communion with each other, with you, and with your good
news. We thank you for all that draws us close together,
astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude. Accept our
gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day
and as honor to your presence in our world; for the sake of
those who stand in need and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy
Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

... WITH FAITH OPEN TO THE WEEK AHEAD ...

*****Hymn: "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness" #28 VU**

**1 Herald! Sound the note of gladness!
 Tell the news that Christ is here;
 make a pathway through the desert
 for the one who brings God near.**

**Refrain: Sound the trumpet!
 Tell the message!
 Christ the Saving One has come!**

**2 Herald! Sound the note of judgement,
warning us of right and wrong,
turning us from sin and sadness,
till once more we sing the song. Refrain**

**3 Herald! Sound the note of pardon!
Those repenting are forgiven;
God receives these wayward children,
and to all new life is given. Refrain**

**4 Herald! Sound the note of triumph!
Christ has come to share our life,
bringing God's own love and power,
granting victory in our strife. Refrain**

*****Commissioning / Benediction**

*****Extinguishing of the Christ Candle**

Christ has been with us sharing the light of life.

He says to us, "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine."

**We go forth taking with us the light of Christ in our hearts, and
we promise to let it shine in the world through our good works,
to the glory of God. Amen.**

Postlude: "In Dulci Jubilo"

R. Pearsall

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas in King and the King Township Food Bank. Both organizations relay their appreciation to King City United Church for their generous gifts.

Rev Bruce Roffey will be presiding at KCUC's **Christmas Eve service** on Friday, December 24th at 7 p.m.

There will be no services on December 25th or 26th. We will **resume regular worship on Sunday, January 2nd at 10 a.m.**

World Vision – For the past few years KCUC has supported 13 year old Josteen David through World Vision. Josteen lives in Santa Ana, Ecuador and will be 14 in mid-March. Josteen appreciated and mentioned the cards and letters he has received over the past few years. It takes a few months for Josteen to receive any mail we send as it first has

to be translated and then forwarded to him. We would like to send a birthday card and personal letters from the congregation again this year. Please consider writing a letter to Josteen, it only takes a few minutes but it can be a lasting memory for him. You can write words of encouragement, wisdom, what our weather is like, or what a typical day is for you. Anything! Please send write a letter and drop it in Kristen's mail slot on the office door or email her at kcuc@bellnet.ca and she will include your letter with our card. Please send it by December 31st to ensure delivery for Josteen's birthday.

Pastoral Visitation - Rev. Andrew Lee is offering pastoral visitation in the winter season. He will bring stories, scriptures, hymns, and prayers. If you are comfortable and interested, please contact your church office or Rev. Lee.

Offering - Thank you for sending your offerings to the church. Your offerings support the ministry of the church and have been much appreciated. Please mail a cheque to your church directly, or make an e-transfer: kcuc@bellnet.ca

2021 Donations

Please plan ahead with your donations to be included in your 2021 tax receipt. Donations by eTransfer can be automatically accepted up until December 31st however if you are donated by cheque or cash, due to limited office hours between Christmas and New Years, we ask that they be in the office by December 24th. Please do not rely on mail delivery as there have been delays. Your continued support is appreciated.

Ukulele Gathering for Christmas Carols – YUM had Ukulele lessons at King City. Participants enjoyed Christmas Carols with ukulele, hoping to have another gathering next year.

YAYA (Youth And Young Adult)

YUM YAYA group had SQUID GAME DAY at New Hope yesterday. It was fun! Thank you for the support.

Worship Schedule

	December 19	December 24	January 2
Preacher	Rev. Andrew K. Lee	Rev. Bruce Roffey	Rev. Andrew K Lee
Announcements			
Advent Candle Liturgy			
Scripture Reader			
Church Year	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	Epiphany
Liturgical Colour	Purple/Blue	Purple/Blue	White/Yellow

Minute for Mission

“Building communities of belonging”

Accumulating debt. Rising tuition. Pressure to succeed academically. Uncertainty about the labour market after graduation. These are just some of the reasons that, in a 2016 survey of post-secondary students in Ontario, 65 percent reported feeling exhausting anxiety and 46 percent reported feeling too depressed to fully function. And that was before COVID-19 forced students into lockdown.

Your generosity through Mission & Service supports students across the country through critical campus ministries, including the Rev. Tim Nethercott’s.

Nethercott is the United Church’s campus minister at Mount Royal University, the University of Calgary, and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. “We know that community is essential to mental health. There is a mental health crisis among young adults, partly because they aren’t coming from community. Many are lonely. They don’t realize that you need to find yourself with others, love and be loved in community in order to have mental health. Campus ministry supports mental health by building communities of belonging.”

The model of campus ministry Nethercott leads is unique. With grant support, he has hired and trained a team of six young adults to offer ministry as part of a ministry team. The peer-to-peer model means the ministry is always fresh and relatable. Together, Nethercott and his staff team host events that have drawing power, offer a free meal, and encourage participants to attend sharing circles to help build community, which in turn supports mental health. One of these events has been a wildly successful drumming program. Each year the drumming program was a focus, 2,500 people participated.

“Campus ministry serves the population that is least present in our churches. We don’t see a lot of people in their 20s, but that’s the age when people set the pattern for their adult life. If the church isn’t there saying ‘Consider membership in a spiritual community,’ it might never occur to them,” he says, adding that it doesn’t cost much to have a big impact. “It’s just salaries and food. The buildings, computers, etc. are paid for by the institution and government. It’s not a great expense for a huge public

witness of caring. Also, the United Church has a brand that means something in academia. It often opens doors to support students even more.”

Exam pressure means December is a particularly stressful time for students. Let’s hold them and the campus ministers who support them in prayer. Let us pray together:

Compassionate God, grant students energy, wisdom, and clarity of mind as they write their exams. May they know your calm presence during anxious, overwhelming moments. Lead them toward balance and wellness so they can be at their best. Rest your grace upon all campus ministers, too. May they feel the gratitude of the whole of the church so they know their ministry is valued and feel supported in offering it. Energize them as they continue to make a profound difference in the lives they serve. In Christ’s way and name we pray, amen.

King City United Church

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Church Office Hours: Tues., Wed. and Thurs. 1 – 5:30 pm

Rosemary (De Silva) Karunaratne, Organist & Choir Director

Lew McLeod, Custodian

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