

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
December 24th, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Praise Medley: Star of Bethlehem, Once In Royal David's City,
Ding Dong Merrily On High, Christmas In the
Harbour

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: Love Came Down at Christmas

Call to Worship:

Instead of waiting for presents and Christmas treats,
we choose to wait on God.

Instead of the way of consumerism, capitalism and individualism
we choose to seek a better way.

Instead of fear, hate and complacency,
we choose to be courageous.

Instead of being bound by the pressures and expectations of
traditions,
we choose too trust in God.

Instead of everything else,
we choose to worship.

Hymn: Come, Let Us Sing Of a Wonderful Love **VU 574**

Opening Prayer:

**Restore us, O God, let your face shine on us. As you have
lead Joseph lead us. As you have restored those who have
been broken by the cruelty of the world, restore us. As you
have shined on our ancestors, shine on us, so that we may
be saved. Amen.**

The Candle of Love

*I am walking a path of love, I am walking a path of love
I am walking a path of love, lead me home, lead me home.*

Voice 1:

"Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her
heart." (Luke 2:19)

Voice 2:

What does love feel like in the new world?

Voice 1:

Love feels like knowing I am a sacred piece of a magnificent
whole. Love feels like acceptance and gratitude. Love feels like
being cherished.

Voice 2:

Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world, where
you, and me, and all of God's creation are treasured and
beloved.

Voice 1: (Fourth Advent candle is lit.)

*I am walking a path of love, I am walking a path of love
I am walking a path of love, lead me home, lead me home.*

Ministry of Music: 'Christmas Lullaby' sung by Maia McKeown

Hymn: Away In A Manger **VU 69**

A Time for All Ages

Prayer of Confession:

**O God of peace, you surprise us with your unexpected
blessings. In the midst of tears, you offer joy. In the midst
of judgment, you offer mercy. Forgive us for our
begrudging hearts, for all of the times when we chose to
stay the same rather than accept your invitation to be
transformed into new life. (silent reflection)**

Words of Affirmation:

Hear the good news. God's mercy is from generation to generation. No matter what choices we have made, still our God is abounding in steadfast love. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven!
Amen.**

Offertory: All Poor Ones and Humble (refrain) **VU 68**

Offertory Prayer:

Our gifts we bring to you, O God, in the love of Advent that you might take them and use them to make a difference in the world. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Luke 1:47-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

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

Meditation

Ministry of Music: 'Everybody Get Ready'

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: God Is Love

Hymn: The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy **VU 73**

Benediction