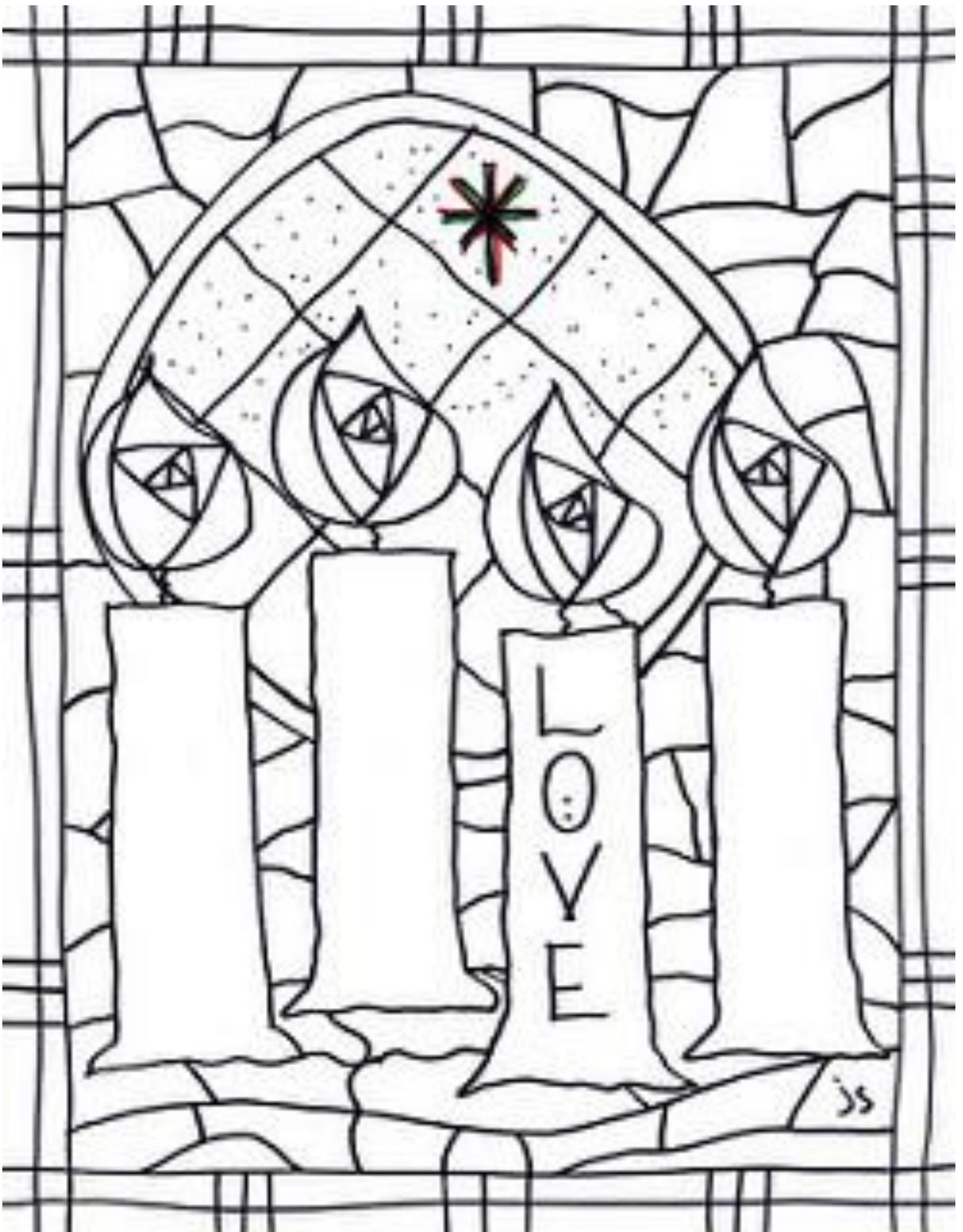


PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

**Sunday, December 24, 2017
10:00am**

Advent 4 – LOVE

Rev. Heather Power & Rev. Joe Gaspar





PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
275 Erb Street East, Waterloo, ON N2J 1N6
519-885-0935 | parkuc@golden.net | parkuc.ca

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LARGE PRINT Bulletins, Voices United Hymn Books and Bibles are available from the ushers.

BULLETIN NOTATIONS:

★Signal to stand, for those who are able.

VU~Voices United Hymn book **MV**~More Voices Hymn book

Welcome Visitors! We're glad to have you worshipping with us at Parkminster and would like to make sure you feel connected. Please take a few minutes to fill out one of the white information envelopes found in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or put it in the mail slot outside the office. Whether you'd like more information about Parkminster's programs, want to request offering envelopes, or have a question about becoming a member – or whatever else is important to you, we'd love to hear from you! Welcome!

GATHERING

Prelude: “When Hope Came Down” *arr. by Kari Jobe*
(The Band)

Welcome

Statement of Welcome

One: Today, we remember our relationship with First People which has not always been healing and empowering. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home, the Anishnawbe (A-nish-NA-bay) the Haudenosaunee (Ho-di-no-SHOW-nay), and the Neutral. We acknowledge with regret, that this history has not always been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

All: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning. Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.

One: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends. Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.

One: Welcome to each who is searching for meaning, who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

All: As we come together as church, we turn to one another with gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek blessing as we welcome the great gift of spirit in us, through us, and among us.

Joys and Concerns

Advent Candle Lighting:

Week Four – LOVE

One: Today marks the end of our Advent journey. Each week we lit a candle to remind us of the promises of God dwelling among us - the promises of hope, peace and joy. We light these candles again this morning.

Today we are reminded that the God we worship is a God of pure self-giving love. “Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” We honour that truth as we light the fourth candle on our wreath--the candle of love.

As we light this candle, please join in singing our Advent song,

♪ 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.

One: Let us pray together,

All: Jesus said “I leave you with a new commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
Our journey continues, Amen.

★ Hymn: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ♪ VU #2

Passing of the Peace



One: God is the source of peace within us.

All: In humility and surrender let us claim it.

One: Jesus is the way of peace among us.

All: With courage and faith let us live it.

One: The Holy Spirit is the unity of peace between us.

All: With generosity and joy let us share it.

One: May the peace of Jesus, the Christ be with you...

All: And also with you.

Adapted from Rex A. Hunt http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy_collection/year_b_liturgy_collection/year_b_pentecostafter/pentecostb2452015.html

Following the passing of the Peace, children and youth will leave for special Christmas activities session with Rev. Heather! Happy Learning!

For babies and toddlers, there is the Family Worship Space at the back of the sanctuary. Each week, there will be an adult present so that the children can play and be cared for while parents worship. Parents are free to come and go from that space, according to the needs of their children.

EXPLORING

Opening Our Hearts

**Holy God, Loving Christ, Living Spirit;
You are present in the everyday occurrences;
you are revealed in startling and wondrous encounters.
Let the revelation of your mystery
emerge as the stories of our faith
meet us in our daily living. Amen.**

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 1: 18-25 Matthew has told us of Jesus' descent from David. He is the anointed ("Messiah") king God has promised. Joseph's and Mary's families ("engaged") have signed a marriage contract but Joseph has not yet *taken her* (v. 20) into his house. If Mosaic law on sexual relations was fully observed then, Joseph could have brought charges against her, and she could have been stoned to death ("public disgrace", v. 19) for *adultery* (then including pre-marital sex). Joseph, while observant of the Law ("righteous"), is compassionate: he "planned to dismiss [divorce] her quietly". Matthew (v.22) is keen to show that Jesus fulfills God's promise made in Isaiah 7:14; "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."

Adapted from www/montreal.anglican.org/comments/aadv4m.shtml
by Chris Haslam

Matthew — Three gospels* (the good news) in the New Testament portion of the bible offer similar portraits of the life of Jesus. This gospel is the first in the New Testament, but it was probably the second to be written. Scholars recognize that it borrows material from Mark, and from a *sayings* source containing sayings of Jesus and known as Q (for *Quelle*, German for *source*). The author shows an understanding of Jewish culture and religion not found in the other gospels. It was probably written about 60 to 70 AD, possibly for a largely Jewish audience.

*The stories of Jesus—Mark and Luke being the others.
Chris Haslam- www.montreal.anglican.org/comments/aadv1m.shtml

Questions for Reflection

- Have you ever been asked to support or stand with someone in following an unconventional dream? What was that like?
- What has helped you replace fear with faith?

Ministry of Music: “Just Another Christmas” *by Laura Story*
(The Band)

Reflection

★ Hymn: “Long Before the Night” 🎵 VU #282 (vs. 1 - 4)

RESPONDING

Offering – invitation

Offertory: “The Huron Carol” *French Folk Song*
(soloist: Kathleen Vanderlinden)

★ Dedication: “What Can I Do?” 🎵 MV #191

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. (I'll sing with joy.) I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

★ Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

**God within us , God beyond us, God among us,
May the Mystery always be named and
known among all peoples and in all times.
May creation give way
to the rule of love and the power of life.
Satisfy our hunger, and grant us a
hunger to see the whole world fed.
Restore us to right relationship with You,
with creation, with others, with ourselves.
Strengthen us to reject all
that would lead us away from You,**

**Come to us when we choose death over life.
Give us courage to follow your call in this moment.
For in your love we find the only power,
the only home, the only honour we will ever need,
in this life and the life to come.
Amen.**

+Adapted from paraphrases found in the New Zealand Prayer Book (1989) and one by Sarah-Dylan Breuer found at http://www.theworshipwell.org/pdf/Lords_Prayer_Paraphrase.pdf

RETURNING

★ Hymn: “O Ancient Love” ♪ VU #17

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Blessing (tune: ♪ MV #215)

**Love be with you, love forever,
Love be with you, my friends.
Till we meet again, may God be with you.
Love, love, love.**

Postlude: “Let the World Sing Gloria” *arr. Dan Galbraith*
(The Band)

Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer in various ways this Sunday:

Ushers:.....Trudie Robbins, Jeanne Foster, Max Cohen and
.....Margo Foster Cohen

Greeters:Marjorie Eveleigh

Lay Reader:.....Emma Cohen

Soloist:Kathleen Vanderlinden

The Band:.....Catriona Teves, Colleen Usaty, Jamie Hofman,
.....Lee McWebb, Jeff Stacey,
.....John & Matthew Watson, Angie & Neil Murray

Audio/Visual:Sandy Quehl & Heather Watts

Chancel Arrangements:.....Chancel Committee

Candle Lighters:.....arranged each Sunday morning in Advent

Counters:Marilyn Hill & Bud Adams

Coffee Hour:Jean & Jack Wilson

Coffee Hour Dessert:Jean Wilson

The Ministry of Parkminster:.. All of us

Ministers:.....Rev. Heather Power (x 22) & Rev. Joe Gaspar (x 23)

Music Director:.....Neil Murray (x 25)

Office Administrator:.....Melanie Chisholm (x 21)

Custodian:.....Allen Switzer (x 26)



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

7:00pm – Family Service

10:00pm – Candlelight Communion Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For full details please refer to the weekly “What’s UP” email.

(If you would like to receive “What’s UP”, please contact the church office.)

MINISTERS’ MESSAGES

CHRISTMAS COVERAGE: Rev. Joe and Rev. Heather will both be taking some time after Christmas. Rev. Joe will be away from Monday, December 25 to Monday, January 1, while Rev. Heather will be away from Monday, January 1 to Monday, January 7.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

OFFICE HOURS BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS: The church office will be open from 10:00am - 3:00pm on December 27, 28 and 29.

NEW YEARS: The office will be closed on Tuesday, January 2nd, in lieu of the January 1st statutory holiday. Regular office hours will resume January 3 at 10:00am.

JANUARY KIDS’ PLAY DAY at Parkminster!

Attention families! Join us on Wednesday, January 3rd for a FUN PLAY DAY for children and a chance for parents to check out the new curriculum we will be using on Sundays at Parkminster beginning in the New Year! Join us at either: 11:30am – 1:30 pm or 5:30pm – 7:00pm. Childcare and activities provided at both times as well as family-friendly food. All are welcome! For more information or to RSVP, please contact Wendy Rudd: w.rudd@rogers.com

FINANCIAL REPORT

WE'RE ALMOST THERE! Now at 97% of our local fund target, and at 88% of our outreach target. A further \$11,600 is required to meet our projected operating costs for the year of \$342,300. For Outreach, a further \$9,600 is required to meet our year-end Outreach goal of \$80,000. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Outreach Goal - \$80,000

Local Fund - \$342,300

