



Photo: Peter Oleskevich

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 22, 2019, 11:00 am

Advent 4 – LOVE CANTATA SUNDAY

*** Please rise in body and/or spirit**

Music as We Gather

Gathering

*** Clergy & Choir Enter**

*** Lighting of the 4th Candle of Advent – The Candle of Love**

One: We have lit candles for hope, peace, and joy. The fourth candle on the Advent wreath is for love. So, what is Love?

All: “an intense feeling of deep affection.”

One: Yes, and?

All: “A feeling of great pleasure and happiness.”

One: What else?

All: “feel deep affection for.”

One: Now that is interesting: Love can be a thing. Can Love be a Somebody too?

All: That’s not what the dictionary says.

One: But that’s what the Bible says: “God is Love”. Now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” You are the Love of Jesus

who tells us to love God, and love each other. Our saving Love!

All: Here's to Love!

One: In Advent, Love stirs within us, a sign of great happiness.

*** Candle Lighting**

*** Introit:** "A Candle is Burning" VU #6, v4

Welcome and Announcements

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Giving Tree Acknowledgements

*** Call to Worship:**

One: Christmas is a time of anticipation.

All: We can hardly wait.

One: Christmas is a time of giving.

All: We are ready to receive.

One: Christmas is a time of hope and promise.

All: We are looking for it.

One: Could it be? Is it here? Let us come and see;

All: let us open ourselves to the wonder of it all.

*** Opening Prayer:**

One: O God, in this time of worship, may we be open to your promises, your love, and your transformation.

All: May we vision and dream.

May we be surprised.

May we receive the life you give us.

One: May we encounter Emmanuel—God with us.

All: And may we never be the same. Amen.

Listening

Children's Focus

The Lord's Prayer

*** Carol:** "The First Nowell"

VU #91
vs. 1-3, 6



*Joy has Dawned
a Cantata for Christmas*

How Great Our Joy

Joy in the Morning

Mary Had a Baby

Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven

* * *

Carol: "O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

VU #64

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The offering will be collected as we sing

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 darkness shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

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.

How silently, how silently
The wond'rous gift is giv'n!
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.

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.

Brightest and Best of the Stars

Joy Has Dawned

Jesus Christ is Born!

* * *

***Benediction**

Postlude



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