

**Tuesday, December 24, 6:30 p.m.: Christmas Eve  
"A Child Is Born For Us. Do You Have Room?"**

**Sunday December 29, 2019**

"First Sunday After Christmas" Service 10:30a.m.  
Worship Leader: Mary Way-White

**Sunday January 5, 2020**

"Celebrating the Three Kings" Service 10:30a.m.  
Worship Leader Elizabeth Henderson

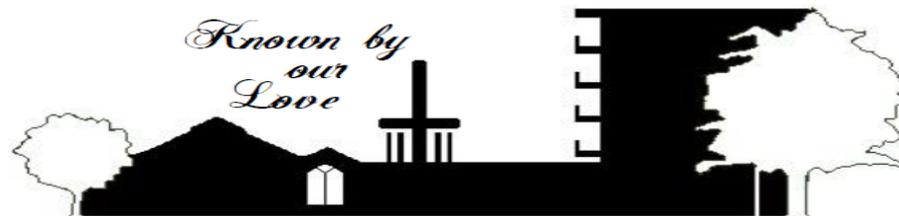


4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**PLEASE NOTE**

Rev. Roni is away December 25, 2019  
to January 7, 2020.

PASTORAL CARE, will be provided by  
Rev. Kathleen McCallum until January 5, 2020.



## EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

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**December 22, 2019 10:30am**

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

If you are new to Emmanuel, we hope that you feel welcome  
and that your faith has been enriched through the worship  
today and that you may come again!

Please introduce yourself to our minister, Rev. Roni Beharry,  
& please sign the Guest Book before you leave.

Please note: Rev. Roni is off Monday & Tuesday 's.  
EMERGENCY Contact for Rev. Roni is: 1-416-271-5313.

A special **thank you** to all participants  
in today's service.

Reader: Mary Way-White

Ushers: Bob and Judy Pronovost

Coffee Fellowship: Nancy Dixon & Josephine McCulley

*Please join us for a time of fellowship after our service  
in the Bert Passmore Hall.*

**WE GATHER**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**

**“A SIGN OF EMMANUEL: GOD’S EXPRESSION OF LOVE”**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Carol Sing**

**Welcome**

**Territorial Acknowledgement:** “We gather today on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg people and, specifically, the Nipissing First Nation, the land they share with us as a result of the Robinson-Huron Treaty. May we live in peace and friendship as a treaty people.”

**Centering Words:**

“Faith is a place of mystery, where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty” by: Brene Brown.

**We trust in God’s love at times such as these...**

**WE ENTER INTO GOD’S PRESENCE**

**Call to Worship:**

When an angel of the Lord appeared to Mary,  
Mary said yes, even in the midst of the unknown.  
**When an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph,**  
**Joseph said yes, even in the midst of uncertainty.**  
When we consider the origins of our Christian faith  
in the midst of mystery and glory, we say yes to God.  
**When we celebrate the birth of Christ,**  
**We proclaim God is with us, Emmanuel.**

**Advent Litany:** “The Hope of Your Coming”

*Words and Music by Ruth Elaine Schram and Aren Newell Williams*

**Choir**

May the hope of Your coming guide us from the dark.  
May the peace of your promise rest upon our heart.  
May the joy of Your presence glow throughout the night.  
May the love, Your deep love, fill this room, fill this room  
with light.

**SENT TO SHOW CHRIST’S LOVE**

**Hymn:** “People Look East” VU #9

**Benediction:**

Go forth and magnify the Lord.  
We will rejoice in God, our Saviour.  
Go forth and live in the Lord.  
We will draw strength from the one  
who scattered the proud  
and brought down the powerful  
from their places of honour.  
Go forth and bless God’s holy name.  
We will give glory and honour  
to the Lord, our God.  
Go with God.

**Choral Benediction:**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid**  
**God will go with you each hour of every day.**  
**Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.**  
**Know God will guide you in all you do.**  
**Go now in love, and show you believe.**  
**Reach out to others so all the world can see.**  
**God will be there watching from above.**  
**Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**  
**Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**



*Prayers for this service are adapted from the Abingdon  
Worship Annual 2019, December 8th 2019,  
written by Hans Holznagel.*

### Offertory Blessing:

In this season of giving, O God,  
receive our gifts and transform them into gifts of grace  
that help your Beloved, beyond this place,  
know your presence and compassion,  
in their lives.

May our lives be gifts to all your children.  
How will they know you are with them, unless we come  
alongside?

Help us to live out our namesake, Emmanuel.

Amen.

### Pastoral Prayer Litany:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

### We Pray:

#### Choral Response:

Come Now, O God of Love,  
we are your people,  
pour out your spirit  
that we be one body. *VU#34*

#### 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, and forgive us  
our trespasses, as we forgive them that  
trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
forever and ever.

Amen.

### Advent Week 4

**Narrator:** Lord, I will sing of Your great love forever;  
with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through  
all generations.

**Congregation:** *Oh Lord, You are our Love .*

**Narrator:** For God so loved the world that He gave His only  
Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have  
eternal life.

**Congregation:** *Oh Lord, You are our Love .*

**Narrator:** Our hearts long for the Love that Your arrival will  
bring.

**Congregation:** *Oh Lord, You are our Love .*

**Narrator:** God's promises are true. We await the birth of  
Christ, the Promised Child, the Savior of the World.

**Love is coming soon!**

**Congregation:** *Oh Lord, You are our Love*

#### *Choir*

May the hope of Your coming guide us from the dark.

May the peace of your promise rest upon our heart.

May the joy of Your presence glow throughout the night.

May the love, Your deep love, fill this room, fill this room  
with light.

May the love, Your deep love, fill this room, fill this room  
with light.

**Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle:** Brian Conrad

#### Opening Prayer:

God with us, Emmanuel,  
as we draw near to the manger,  
focus our attention to your presence among us.

As we consider the love, care and faith  
of Mary and Joseph, strengthen our faith.

As we prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas,  
fill our hearts with your love.

Amen.

**Opening Hymn:** “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” VU#44

**Prayer of Confession:**

God, you who will not deprive us of heavenly messengers,  
in our time of vulnerability,  
**we seek your compassion and mercy**  
**for those times when our choices are based on fear and**  
**mistrust,**  
**rather than love and care.**  
We confess our weakness  
and rejoice in the gift of grace  
we receive through your gift of  
Love Incarnate-Jesus Christ-Our Emmanuel.  
Amen

**Prayer of Assurance:**

God is indeed with us. We are not alone. God leads us  
into Holy Mystery. That’s God’s Expression of Love  
toward Us.  
Amen.

**Choral Assurance of Forgiveness:**

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. *“O Little Town of Bethlehem” VU#64 vs.4*

**Children’s Time:** “Joseph’s Dream”

*adapted from The Christmas Story*

**Advent Prayer of Illumination:**

Advent is a time of waiting.  
We acknowledge that sometimes we find it hard to wait,  
O God.  
Advent is a time of preparation.

**Open our hearts and minds, O God, so that we may**  
**prepare for the Christ Child to be born in us.**  
Help us to receive your word to us, O God,  
**Your word of joy for today, in words written long ago.**  
Amen

*By: Phyllis Flemming, Grace U.C., Thornbury, ON Gathering A/C/E  
2019/20 (Year A)*

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-16

*One: Herein is Wisdom*

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Epistle Reading:** Romans 1: 1-7

*One: Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church*

**All: Come and pray in us Holy Spirit.**

**Choir Anthem:** “A Tiny Child Will Come”

*(by Don Besig and Nancy Price)*

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 1: 18-25

*One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ!*

**ALL: Glory to you O Christ.**

**Sermon:** “The Promise of God with Us.”

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Hymn:** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” VU #64

**Announcements**

**Offering:** .

**Offertory:**

**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.**

*VU #55 vs.4*