



**Westminster United Church**  
**"Embracing Our Community"**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love**  
**Intergenerational Service**  
**December 24, 2017**  
**10:30am**

**Our Mission Statement**



Westminster United Church is a Christian family sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the congregation, the community and the world at large. We provide a spiritual home for worship, celebration of the sacraments, and Christian Education.

**Statement of Inclusion**



We embrace people of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientations, gender identity, abilities, ethnicity, social and economic circumstances, in the membership, ministry, leadership and life of this congregation.

Hymns, responsive readings and unison prayers are displayed on screen.

Please do not leave handbags or valuables unattended.

**Thank you to those participating in today's service:**

<b>Greeters and Candle lighters</b>	Peter and Analicia Coulson
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Susan Pleasance
<b>Ushers:</b>	Team 4 - Bob Dingman, Bob Neil Larry Morrow, Arlene Jones Gord Mahaffy, Neville Wright Jim Edwards
<b>Tech Booth</b>	Bruce Cullen, Adam Cullen
<b>Coffee and Tea Servers</b>	Team 1 - Emma Lovasz Joyce Lowe, Liz Robinson
<b>Volunteer Custodian(s)</b>	Team 4 - Bob Dingman, Bill Beer Maureen Dingman, Bonnie Beer

(\* Indicates to please stand as you are able.)

## We Gather Together

**Prelude** - Joy to the World - *arr. Zsolt*

**Kathleen Booth**, trumpet

### **Welcome and Announcements - The Life and Work of the Church**

#### **Call to Worship**

One: In a story passed on through the ages...

**All: In a love surpassing all loves...**

One: In a God who sacrifices self...

**All: In the birth of a child, Emmanuel, God with us...  
is a flame that will kindle the world.**

#### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**The Berthelot Family**

One: Jesus is coming and we are preparing to welcome him again into the world and into our lives.

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent,  
the candle of Love.

The gift of Jesus reflects God's great love for us.  
Just as a candle shines a welcome in a window,  
God's inviting love is an Advent gift that embraces us,  
reassures us and welcomes us home. Because of God's love  
for us we want to be people who love others.

**ALL: May this eternal truth be always on our hearts  
That the God who breathed this world into being  
Placed stars into the heavens  
And designed a butterfly's wing  
Is the God who entrusted God's own self  
to the care of ordinary people  
becoming vulnerable that we might know  
how strong is the power of Love  
A mystery so deep it is impossible to grasp  
A mystery so beautiful it is impossible to ignore.**

Words by John Birch [www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)

#### **Sung Response - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (tune Love Divine) vs. 1 & 3**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free:  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

#### **Opening Prayer**

<sup>2</sup> **Greeting One Another** - The Love of Christ be with you

**\* Hymn: VU 9 People Look East vs 1,2,4,5**

*The Bible is placed, candles lit*

## To Offer Ourselves

**Invitation to Offering** (*our commitment to support the Life and Work of the church*)

*(Children and youth are encouraged to place their offerings in the offering plate at this time, too.)*

**Offertory** - Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming - *arr. Strack*  
**Kathleen Booth**, trumpet

**\* Sung Response: VU 55**

**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.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

## To Hear God's Word

**Time with all God's Children**

**Children will stay for today's intergenerational service**

**MV 33 Jesus Came Bringing Us Love**

**Jesus came bringing us love,  
Jesus came bringing us love,  
Jesus came bringing us love,  
hallelujah forever more!**

**Anthem** - Glory to God in the Highest - *Althouse*  
**Kathleen Booth**, trumpet

**Scripture Reading: John 1:1-5, 14**

**A Christmas Journey Then & Now**

## To Respond in Faith

**Time of Silent Reflection**

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

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

## To Go Into the World

**\* Hymn: Love Has Come**

**\* Blessing and Sending Out**

**\* Sung Response: VU 7**

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart,  
Jesus has come and will never depart.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

**Postlude** - Merry Christmas - *Ouchterlony*

**Advent at Home**

Light an Advent Candle  
Read: Matthew 1:18-25 & Luke 2:1-20

Pray: Jesus, we thank you for coming to be with us, to love us and show us how to live in love.  
Help us to keep you at the center of our celebration this Christmas. Amen.

**Church on our Conference Prayer Cycle**

**St. Matthew's UC, Kingston, Four Winds**

**Prayer Requests during the Service**

Our weekly worship service provides a time for submitting prayers of concern, thanksgiving and praise. You will find prayer forms in the pew pockets.

Prayer/praise requests are collected along with the offering. Please place the completed prayer cards in the baskets as they are circulated and your weekly offering in the metal plates. The requests are read in the service during our prayer time together and then forwarded to the Prayer Group who will continue to pray for each concern.

**Please note that our office will be closed during the Christmas week of Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.  
Our office will re-open Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
The worship service will still be held on Sunday, December 31 at 10:30 a.m.**



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**Upcoming Services**

- December 31      Pulpit Supply - Susan Pleasance
- January 7         First Worship Service of the New Year
- January 14        Celebration of Baptism
- January 21        Communion Sunday

Coffee and Tea will not be served after the 10:30 a.m. service on *December 24 & 31*, but will resume on January 7.

*Reasonably priced Christmas gift baskets are available now in the gym*



### Scavenger Hunt– Women of Westminster United Church

You are invited to join us on **Monday, January 8, 2018** in the Founder's Room at **7:00pm!** The UCW will have a Scavenger Hunt for the New Year. Bring your sneakers, laughter and friendship. Search alone or with partners. We're never too old to have fun!

### Westminster Mitten Tree

The Outreach Committee is pleased to continue Westminster's Advent tradition of the Mitten Tree. Please **hang your donations** of warm mittens and gloves for both children and adults on the tree that will be in the Narthex. All donations will be presented in January to area schools and community groups that have expressed a need.



### Start off 2018 by giving blood!

The next Canadian Blood Services Blood Donor Clinic is **Tuesday, January 2** from **4:00PM - 7:00PM** in the Westminster gym. You can book your appointment time by calling ahead to Canadian Blood Services at 1-888-236-6283.

### Grocery Cards

Grocery gift cards are available for purchase at face value during coffee time after service on Sunday or from office during the week. 5% of the proceeds go to Westminster UC.



## December Worship & Events

**Christmas Eve Youth Play**  
**December 24**  
**2:00, 4:00 & 6:30pm**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Communion Service**  
**December 24**  
**10:00pm**

**December 31**  
**Pulpit Supply– Susan Pleasance**  
**10:30am**



## Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Westminster United Church!

In 2018, we will be celebrating Westminster United Church's 60th Anniversary! We want to celebrate in a way that includes all church members and highlights our rich history. To that end, we are creating a "60th Anniversary" working group to plan and lead the celebration activities and events. If you are interested in being a part of this group please let us know by providing your name and contact information to our church administrator, Beth or by providing Tom McNown with your information (tom.mcnown@gmail.com or 289-927-4666) by Friday, December 15th, 2017. An initial planning session will be scheduled in early January. Additionally, please forward any suggestions or ideas for this exciting event to either Beth or Tom.



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<b>Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care</b>	Rev. Michelle Robinson <a href="mailto:mrobinson@westminster-uc.ca">mrobinson@westminster-uc.ca</a>
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<b>Minister of Music</b>	Margaret Motum
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Beth Navarro <a href="mailto:wuc@westminster-uc.ca">wuc@westminster-uc.ca</a>
<b>Custodian</b>	Ronell Paguio, DenJen Cleaners

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## Westminster Weekly Calendar

### *Sunday December 24*

**10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**-Sunday Worship Advent IV  
**02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**-Christmas Youth Play with live animals (Sanctuary)  
**04:00 PM - 05:00 PM**-Christmas Youth Play with live animals (Sanctuary)  
**06:30 PM - 07:30 PM**-Christmas Youth Play with live animals (Sanctuary)  
**10:00 PM - 11:00 PM**-Candlelight Communion Service

### *Monday December 25*

**Merry Christmas!**

### *Tuesday December 26*

**Boxing Day**

### *Wednesday December 27*

**OFFICE CLOSED**

### *Thursday December 28*

**OFFICE CLOSED**

### *Friday December 29*

**OFFICE CLOSED**

### *Saturday December 30*

### *Sunday December 31*

**10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**-Sunday Worship