

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

*INTROIT:

*WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Let our hospitality towards each other reflect God's love.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

REFLECTIVE MUSIC #6: A Candle is Burning

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way,
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

OPENING PRAYER:

Carrie Parsons

Give thanks to God, for God is good!

God's love endures forever!

May the lost, the found, the weary, and the joyful hear...

God's love endures forever.

May the thirsty, the hungry, the imprisoned, and the free hear...

God's love endures forever.

As we gather and grow, give and receive...

We sing of God's unfailing love!

*HYMN # 36: Angels from the Realms of Glory

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Carrie Parsons

As we witness to fear, in the news and in our streets,

we make space for hope in our lives.

With broken hearts, faltering steps, and a desire for healing,

we make gestures of peace with each other.

As we greet strangers, neighbours, and friends,

we make a place for joy in the chaos of our concerns.

Awaiting a future announced and promised by the Living God,

we make room for love in our habits, hearts, and homes.

Holy One, you make the crooked ways straight and mend the broken soul.

On this day, as we offer simple gifts in the face of profound need,

remind us how your grace grows in our giving and receiving.

Inspire the rebirth of love—in our world and in our lives—
as we dedicate ourselves to your justice and mercy.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Watch! Wait! God is bringing to you new hope and peace.

It is a gift, given especially for you—one that you cannot earn—it's a gift. Praise be to the Giver of All Great Gifts, our Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

Kylie and Blair

Reader: "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people'" (Luke 2:8-10).

Reader: Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

People: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

Reader: On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

(Light two purple candles.)

Hymn: Hope Is a Star vs. 2

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
 giving a promise of safety and worth
 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.

***HYMN # 28: Herold Sound the Note of Gladness**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
KATHERINE AMANDA SMART

Brothers and Sisters, we gather now to celebrate the gift of God's grace that is given to us in the Sacrament of Baptism.

We are one body and one spirit.

We have one hope in the risen Christ.

There is one Lord, one faith, one Baptism. One God and Creator of us all.

Out of the waters of baptism we rise to new life, forgiven of sin and one with Christ, members of Christ's body.

Presentation

On behalf of the congregation

I present the following person

for initiation into the Body of Christ through Baptism:

Katherine Amanda Smart

Profession of Faith

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you promise to resist evil and to live in love and justice?

I do, by the grace of God.

Do you believe in the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit—in God, source of love, in Jesus Christ, love incarnate, and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in the mission and ministry of Christ's Church?

I will, God being my helper.

Vows for the parents:

Will you share with your child the Christian life, and seek to grow with her in faith, hope and love?

I will, God being my helper.

Vows for the Sponsor and God Parents

Do you promise through prayer and example to support and encourage **Katherine Amanda Smart** to be a faithful Christian?

I do.

Vows for the Congregation

Let us pledge our support and care for those being baptized today:

As a baptized and baptizing congregation, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you

within a community that worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice and resists evil. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

Let us with the whole Church confess our faith:

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, Eternal God,
for you nourish and sustain all living things
by the gift of water. In the time of Noah,
you destroyed evil by the waters of the flood,
giving righteousness a new beginning.

You led Israel out of slavery, through the waters of the sea,
into the freedom of the promised land.

Blessed are you, O God.

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John.
and anointed with your spirit.

By the baptism of his own death and resurrection,
Christ set us free from sin and death.

And opened the way to eternal life.

Blessed are you, O God.

We praise you that in baptism you give us your Holy Spirit,
who teaches us and leads us into all truth,
filling us with a variety of gifts, that we might proclaim the gospel
and serve as a royal priesthood.

Blessed are you, O God.

Pour out, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water
that this font may become our fount of blessing and source of grace.

Blessed be the Lord our God, now and forever. Amen.

I present to you, Katherine Amanda Smart a member of the Body of
Christ through Baptism.

In God's circle of love, we hold on to each other;

I can see God's love through you.

In God's circle of love, we learn to love each other;

Each of us is special, in God's circle of love.

Oh Katherine did you know that you are very special?

You're so special to us all

Oh come if you will to our circle of love.

Each of us is special, in God's circle of love.

In God's circle of love, we hold on to each other;

I can see God's love through you.

In God's circle of love, we learn to love each other;

Each of us is special, in God's circle of love.

READING: The Story Behind White Gift

Leslie Matsikiti

OFFERING INVITATION & VOLUNTARY

***OFFERTORY HYMN #55 vs. 4**

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

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Jaxon Martin

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: (tune page 54)

Comes a child, the servant king,

hope for all God's children,
opening the Word of truth,
with love for every nation,
with love for every nation.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2 - 7

Reader: Jaxon Martin

The Word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mathew 1:18 – 25

Reader: Obie Matsikiti

The Word of the Lord – **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM:

The Christmas Story

Kylie Bradbury

***HYMN # 35: Good Christian Friends**

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN # 43: Go Tell It on the Mountain**

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

Holy God, Dreamer of dreams,

We offer Cochrane Street United Church to you. We are your people, this is your church. We come to you seeking your guidance, your purpose, your vision. Align our will with yours, so that we will be willing to do whatever it takes to carry out your plan. We ask you to break through in new ways in our church. Show us the great ministry you have in store for us. Help us dream your dreams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, giving us the vision, boldness, and confidence to do all that you call us to do. Amen.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Will Parsons

SUNG BENEDICTION: #895: Gloria

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!

And on earth peace to the people in who God is well pleased.

POSTLUDE

