

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Organ Prelude**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming - 16th century melody; arr. Whitworth  
In Dulci Jubilo - Dietrich Buxtehude

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**The Fourth Candle of Advent Liturgy – The Candle of Love**

Read by Laura and Hannah McFazden

**Opening Carol**                      Come, thou long expected Jesus                      110

**Prayer of Approach and Adoration (Unison)**

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**The Scriptures**

Read by Keppel Bharath and Michele Alexis

Responsive Lesson Micah 5:2-5a                      On Screen

Gospel Luke 1:39-45                      NT Pg. 53

**Carol**    Still, still, still                      152

**Sunday School and St. John's Youth Presentation:**                      New Star

**Carols**

O little town of Bethlehem                      165 vv 1,2

Hope is a star                      119

Angels we have heard on high                      147 vv 1,2,3

We three Kings of Orient are                      173 vv 1,2,3,4

Silent Night                      154

We Wish You a Merry Christmas                      v1 On Screen

**WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND SERVICE**

**Offertory**                      Angels We Have Heard on High - arr. Mary McDonald

**Doxology**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Closing Carol** Now thank we all our God 457

**Commissioning (Unison)**

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**

**Organ Postlude**

**The Lectionary Lessons of the Day**

Micah 5: 2-5a; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

**Thank you for worshipping with us today. Everyone is invited to Caldwell Hall for Debbie's thank you celebration following the service. Hosted by the Session.**

**Minister: Rev. Ian K. Johnston**

**Organist: Gary Postma**

**Thank You!**

Today's candle shines in appreciation of the care and dedication Debbie has demonstrated towards our St. John's Youth. We wish her all the best as she continues her work with the Catholic Diocese.

Thank you to Adams Financial Group for sponsoring today's bulletin!



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**St. John's Presbyterian Church, Cornwall**  
Announcements for December 23, 2018

**Christmas Eve Choir**

The choir would love to have the children and young people of St. John's join us in singing an anthem - ***Holy Child*** - on Christmas Eve.

Kids will practise with the choir for about 15 minutes after today's service. The practice will begin 10 minutes after the service. There will be one final practice tomorrow, Christmas Eve, at 5:20.

Note that a few lyrics in the song are different from the youtube link below, but in the same key. There will be cellos and violins accompanying as well.

Please check your family's email for this link - <https://youtu.be/07twSGSPFUE> - and the lyrics of the song. Thank you.

**Gary Postma, Music director**

*Thank you!*

Today's candle shines in appreciation of the care and dedication Debbie has demonstrated towards our St. John's Youth. We wish her all the best as she continues her work with the Catholic Diocese.

**Sunday School**

The Sunday School will be closed until regular school commences (the week of Jan 7th). Any children attending Service are welcome to enjoy the activity bags available at the South entrance to the sanctuary. Please leave them in the pews to be restocked after using. Thank you.

**Envelope Boxes**

The 2019 envelope boxes are ready to be picked-up. They are on the table at the north west door.

If you don't see a box with your name on it and would like one, please contact Susan MacDonald 613-931-2565, [Susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca](mailto:Susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca) or in person and a box will be on the table for you next Sunday. Thank you.

### **Thought for Today**

Joy to the World, the Lord has come. And He is coming again!

### **Stewardship Thought**

Let us take time to remember those in our midst and around the world who are unable to celebrate Christmas this week because they are homeless; because they are hungry; because they are ill; because they are lonely; because they are in prison; because they are asylum seekers; because they are refugees; because their homes have been destroyed by flood, earthquake, fire or the tragedy of war. We remember those who are unemployed or underemployed and are unable to provide for their family or themselves. We remember the people who are mourning a loved one who is no longer present because of death, disease, or are somewhere unknown. We remember those who are serving with the Armed Forces in far away places, peace-making, peace-keeping or training others. We remember those who must work during these Holy Days on our behalf, First Responders, nurses and doctors, Border Security and those who maintain our roads, highways, trains and airports. Let us pray for the love of Jesus Christ to be with all our sisters and brothers wherever they are – including those who are beside us. This may be the best gift we can give.

## Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love

Luke 1:46-49



Written by the Rev. Robert J. Murray  
(Pinawa Christian Fellowship, Manitoba)

*(Light the candle of love)*

L: People of love,  
God desires people who are not afraid to risk everything  
and respond to the invitation of God's kingdom.

P: Make us those loving people!

L: God longs for people to overcome  
prejudice and fear.  
God wants bold and loving  
companions on the way.

P: Make us those loving people!

L: God yearns for people who find  
creative ways to invite others  
into loving community.

P: Make us those loving people!

L: Let's pray together...

P: God of love, we thank you  
for the invitation to live in your love.  
Bring light to our path as we await  
the Lord of love.  
Amen.



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50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7  
1-800-619-7301 • pwsd@presbyterian.ca

# Healthy Futures Start from the Ground

Sandra Martinez couldn't understand why her sons Erling and Gerson were chronically ill and underweight.

The children were eating, but they were also suffering from the effects of malnutrition – often called hidden hunger.

In Sandra's village in Nicaragua, rates of poverty and hunger are high. Accessing nutritious food and health care is a challenge, meaning many children experience nutrient deficiencies, which can cause illness and delays in growth.

With other participants of a PWS&D project helping families improve food security and nutrition, Sandra learned that a diet rich in fresh produce is an important way to decrease malnutrition. She was able to start a vegetable garden, now brimming with plants to incorporate into nourishing recipes.

"My family's diet has improved because we have learned about the nutritional value of natural foods – those produced in the community and rich in nutrients for our bodies."

Most of all, Sandra is thankful that her boys are healthy and no longer anemic.

This Advent season, help fuel bodies and minds with nutritious food so that future generations can thrive.

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