

Key Scripture - Luke 1:41

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit



Theme - Just Love

Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † With a view to creating a safe space, lowering risk and lifting capacity limits, Trinity has adopted a Vaccination Mandate. Proof of Vaccination is required for all in person activities and gatherings including Worship.
 - Capacity Limits are lifted
 - Masks are still required
- † We continue to pray for those who were impacted by the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

gifts with **vision**

† Gifts with Vision is a response to member requests to be able to give gifts to relatives, friends, and loved ones that are in direct support of the church's Mission & Service partners. Catalogues at the front door highlight the possibilities.

Christmas Cards are available for sale as gift packs.

There are 28 sets of cards that can be sold. Each has six individual cards and envelopes. They will be sold at a price of \$10.00 for the package. All revenue goes to the Church general fund.

Looking Ahead

20 December, 1:00pm - The Spiritual Leadership Team is hosting a book study, **Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey.**

- [Video call link](#)

21 December, 6:30pm - The Longest Night, A Worship Service of Hope, Strength, and Community

22 December, 9:30am - The Spiritual Leadership Team is hosting an **Advent Study - *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent.*** We may meet in person and [remotely](#) by computer or by phone. Please let the Office know if you would like to participate.

24 December -

Children's Service - Remote. You will find it posted to Facebook.

Lessons and Carols, 7:30pm

Candlelight Communion, 10:30pm

The Spiritual Leadership Team is initiating plans for Confirmation this Spring

26 December - Sunday Worship is Suspended. We will not meet in the

Sanctuary

Christmas Week Office Hours - The office is open Wednesday, December 29 and Thursday, December 30 from 9 am to 1 p.m.

Tax Receipts 2021 / Contribution Deadline -

Please note the Holiday Office Hours when or if you wish to make a Charitable Contribution to be included in your 2021 Tax Return. All contributions for 2021 must be submitted no later than December 30, 2021 at 1:00pm.

Smiths Falls Community Food Bank appreciates donations, please fill our wagon at the back of the Sanctuary, it will be delivered monthly.

Cookie Sales After Church -

The Kitchen Coordinators and helpers are selling cookies by the dozen after church today and next Sunday. There are many delicious varieties. You may leave a free-will offering. All funds raised will go to the life and work of Trinity United Church. Enjoy some scrumdolious cookies.

[Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality](#) offers numerous courses that may be of interest as you seek ways to explore and deepen your faith and spiritual experience.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Singing in the Season

56 Jesus, Our Brother

Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
“I carried the mother uphill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

69 Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Interlude "Love Came Down At Christmas" (Peter Au)

Lighting of the Christ Candle
Lighting of the Advent Candle

“When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit”

Luke 1:41

When we feel invisible, ineffective
Too small to make a difference
The Holy invites us to be God-Bearers
And we find Love

(Love candle is lit)

Where in the world do we find Love these days?

Call to Worship

God who spoke to Mary and Elizabeth,
speak your Word to us now.

God who blessed them with new life,
bless us with great expectation.

God who gave them songs of praise to sing,
receive our joyful praise.

God who loves beyond all measure,
we are here to worship you with hearts full of love.

Opening Prayer

With Mary, our spirits rejoice in you,
for you look with favour on all your children.

You have done great things for us.
You have scattered the proud and lifted up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things,
and kept the promises made to our ancestors.

Your mercy is known from generation to generation.

And so, we praise and magnify your holy name
with hearts full of gratitude,
trusting you will do great things once again through Christ
our Lord,
born for us, born to be with us.

Hymn 38 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain -

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly
song?

Refrain -

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain -

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

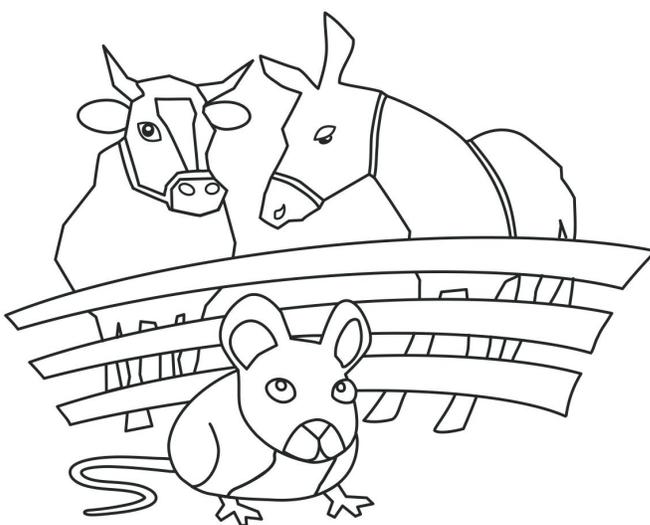
Refrain -

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Time With Children

Love, Fourth Sunday of Advent

<p>When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7</p>	<p>So Mary gave birth to their son, Jesus, in a stable. Luke 2:7</p>
	

Children's Prayer

Jesus, you are with us even when we are afraid.

Help us to pray to you when we are scared or fearful.

Bring love into our hearts we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

God of Life and Love,

The stories of Advent remind us that you are a God of surprises.

You surprised Elizabeth with news she would bear a child late in life.

You surprised Mary with news she would bear our Saviour.

Your surprises overturned their lives

We confess we do not always meet life's surprises with the same courage.

Forgive us when we hesitate to greet you in the unexpected.

Forgive us when we prefer routine over new possibilities.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine.

Love shall be our token,
Love our plea and gift and sign.

We have made our plea for mercy,
trusting in God's gift of love made flesh in Jesus.

Now receive God's forgiveness
as a lasting token of God's love.

Scripture Micah 5:2-5a
 Psalm 80:1-7 (VU 794)
 Luke 1:39-45

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Psalms 80:1-7 (VU 794)

Refrain -

Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

Shepherd of Israel, hear us,

you who lead Joseph like a flock,

you who are enthroned amidst the cherubim.

Shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh;

stir up your might, come and save us.

Refrain -

Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayer?

**You have fed us with the bread of weeping,
and given us tears in plenty to drink.**

You have made a mockery of us to our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Let your hand rest on the one at your right hand,
on the one you have made strong for yourself.

**Then we will never forsake you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.**

Refrain -

Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Meditation "Of The Father's Love Begotten" (Willan)

Reflection Just Love

Hymn 55 "In The Bleak Midwinter"

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

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.

Invitation to the Offering

We make our offering this day with hearts full of love, filled with the hope and joy this season brings. Give knowing God's love will spread far and wide through what we offer in Jesus' name.

Minute for Mission

Certificate Presentation

Offering Prayer

God of Life and Love, receive our gifts this day as tokens of our love for you and signs of our willingness to share that love in the world around

us. Bless our lives, our gifts, our people and our Sister June, so that we may be a blessing to others for the sake of Jesus, our Saviour and our friend.

Hymn 76 "See Amid The Winter's Snow"

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain-

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a stable lies God who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim.

Refrain-

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Say, ye humble shepherds, say what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?

Refrain-

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth' told us of a Saviour's birth."

Refrain-

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Sacred infant, all divine, what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!

Refrain-

***Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.***

Prayers of the People

God of Zechariah and Elizabeth and John,
God of Mary and Joseph and Jesus,

Throughout all generations you have been faithful to us.

You have given new life to the world through sons and daughters,
through grandchildren and great grandchildren,
who took up the promises you made to their fathers and
mothers
and followed your way in the world.

In this time and in the time to come,
raise up a new generation who will live out the new life you
promise in Christ Jesus,
with us and with your church in every neighbourhood and
nation.

God of Our Hearts and Our Hopes,
May your new possibilities be born in us this day.

Thank you for all the faithful saints we have known in our lives.
Their trust in you gives us hope whenever our own faith wavers.

May we be faithful in this generation as others have been before us,
so that our ministry and mission in Jesus' name will be renewed,
engaging the world in refreshing, respectful ways.

God of Our Hearts and Our Hopes,

May your new possibilities be born in us this day.

We pray today for those struggling with loss and discouragement this
season:

for those who have lost someone dear;
for those who cannot find meaningful work;
and all for whom challenge and change make the future
uncertain.

Embrace them with your compassion and strength to persevere.

God of Our Hearts and Our Hopes,

May your new possibilities be born in us this day.

We pray for those for whom sickness and death
obscure your promise of health and salvation;
and for those who have given up on themselves and on the
goodness of others.

We remember those who face conflict in their homes or their
homelands,

who wonder or fear what tomorrow may bring.

We pray for the creation that has suffered from fire, storm and
earthquake this year,

and for the lives disrupted by drought and despair.

Embrace all who suffer with your comfort and courage.

God of our hearts and our hopes,

May your new possibilities be born in us this day.

God of All Life and Each Life,

As a challenging year comes to a close, and a new year beckons,
come to us and be with us once more as we celebrate Christ's
birth.

With the tenderness of your Spirit, lighten our burdens,
and show us new possibilities for our own lives
and for the ministries we take up in Jesus' name,
for we find confidence in the prayer he taught us:

The 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 those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

[EOORC Prayer Cycle](#)

Chinese Pastoral Charge
Chinese United Church

[The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle](#)

China, Hong Kong, Macau

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn 54 "Unto Us A Boy Is Born"

Unto us a boy is born! King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation,
the Lord of every nation.

Christ from heaven descending low comes, on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know;
becradled in the manger,
becradled in the manger.

Herod then with fear was filled: "A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
All the little boys he killed
at Bethlem in his fury,
at Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us,
unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!

Let the organ thunder,
while the choir with peals of glee
doth rend the air asunder,
doth rend the air asunder.

Benediction

Go now, with God's love,
the only tool we need to bring hope to the world.

Go now, with the grace of Jesus,
the only tool we need to offer love to others.

Go now, with the peace of the Spirit,
the only tool we need to mend the brokenness around us.

Choral Amen

Postlude "Noel, C'est L'Amour" (Glanzberg)