

If you are joining us in worship for the first time or returning to visit family and friends, we warmly welcome you as our guest. It is our goal and prayer that you would be blessed and encouraged to start a new week renewed in spirit. Thank you for joining us in worship this morning.

There is holy anticipation as we gather to celebrate the love of God through our worship. Let us prepare our hearts prayerfully this morning as we eagerly seek for the ministry of the Spirit of God to be a blessing in our worship.

This morning your greeters are **Carol & Dirk Van Ek**, the Announcements will be reviewed by **Barbara Ward**, the Scripture lessons will be read by **Don Kennedy**, and the Advent Candle Liturgy will be led by **Ruth & John Booth**. Following worship, everyone is invited to stay for coffee, tea and fellowship.

Today's Hosts are **Nancy & Don Howlett**.

\* \* \*

- **Large Print** editions of the Bulletin, the Book of Praise, Living Faith and the Bible are available in the vestibule.
- Our Sanctuary has a **Hearing Loop**, use the T-switch on your hearing aid;
- Our facility is a **Fragrance Free** building. We have an **automatic door opener** on the front door of the building which has disabled access;
- Recordings of the service are now available on CD by request. Please contact the **Church Office**.
- The sermon is available to listen to on the church website.
- We offer a sponsored **Taxi service** for those who need a ride to Worship, and other Congregational events. The details are available at the Message Centre or speak to **Catherine Held**.

Minister.....	Rev. John Paeng
Clerk of Session.....	Mrs. Margaret Clow
Organist.....	Mrs. Edith Tutiah
Choir Director.....	Mrs. Helen Hill-Tout
Chairman - Board of Managers.....	Mr. Rae Bailey
Church Secretary.....	Mrs. Charlene King

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2017



**LOVE**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### WE APPROACH GOD...

Entry of the Bible

Call to Worship

**\*HYMN #137 "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN"**

Welcome & Announcements

**\*HYMN #143 "ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY"**

Unison Prayer & Lord's Prayer

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (see insert)

**\*HYMN #144 "IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR"**

Anthem: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

### TO LISTEN TO AND REFLECT ON HIS WORD...

Scripture Readings      2 Samuel 7: 1—11, 16 (p. 219/347)  
                                     Romans 16: 25—27, (p. 806/1284)  
                                     Luke 1: 26 –38 (p. 723/1153)

Scripture Response:      Lord, Thy word abideth  
                                     And our footsteps guideth  
                                     Who its truth believeth.  
                                     Light and joy receiveth. Amen

Preaching of the Word: **"FAITH IN THE TRUTH!"**

Prayers of Thanks and Prayers for Others

### AND TO RESPOND IN FAITH AND SERVICE.

Worship with Tithes & Offerings: "Mary's Little Boy Child"

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

**\*HYMN #125 "SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD ABIDING"**

\*Benediction and Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude

**\*ALL WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND**

### **Unison Prayer**

Forgive us for expecting you in the same old way. Forgive us when we expect you to fix our problems without any effort on our part. Forgive us for wanting to work alone for your kingdom, ignoring the gifts of others. Forgive us for those times when we failed to come together to serve the neediest around us. Forgive us when we look to brute force instead of love for solutions. Forgive us for being controlled by fear, instead of faith. Forgive us for failing to see life's challenges as opportunities for your coming.

Refocus us around the Christmas story so that our living echoes Mary's words, "Here I am, Lord. Let it be to me according to your will." Rebuild our churches around your coming. Deepen our gentleness with the weak. We pray in the name of the coming Lord Jesus praying... Our Father...

### **Christmas Appeal**

#### **Rescue BC through PWS&D**

This year St. Columba is supporting the initiative "Rescue BC". Proceeds will be forwarded to Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D). The recent forest fires that have swept through our Province this year have distorted many peoples life's in losing homes and business. Pray upon it and donate if you can, to say we care and want to help as Christians.

Please place your donation in an offering envelope and mark it "Christmas Appeal." To date we have raised \$3390.00.

On **Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11:30**, we are invited join our friends at the **Church of Ascension to Ring the Bells for New Year's Day**. Please plan to be with our neighbours for this celebration.

### **PRAYER LIST**

Iris Ford:                  Iris is slowly recovering from surgery at home and awaiting an opening at Cokely Place. Visitors are welcome but please call first.

Dorris Mulder: Dorris is recovering at home.

Hazel & David Smith: They both continue to struggle with health issues and have been having various tests.

## Announcements

**CHRISTMAS WISHES:** We wish all who will be travelling to visit family and friends a safe journey, and Christmas and New Year's celebrations filled with Joy and Blessing. Take care and God go with you.

**Church Office:** The office will be closed between Saturday, Dec 23rd and Monday, Jan 1st.

Pastor John will be on holidays from Monday, Dec 25 – Tuesday, January 2nd. If you have any pastoral emergencies during this time, please contact your elder, Clerk of Session.

**Mail Boxes:** Please check you mail in the message centre, the boxes are full of cards and notes.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** If you have not already picked up your 2018 Offering Envelopes they are at the message centre. Also a reminder that you can't use last year's envelopes in 2018.

**PRESBYTERIAN PRAYER PARTNERSHIP:** As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we pray that Christians in Israel and Palestine who gather to worship in joy and peace.

**Are you "ON THE VINE?"** There is a large banner in Mahood Hall with the names of all those who come to St. Columba. If your name is NOT on one of the leaves, choose one today, write your name on it, and choose your spot on a branch!



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