



**Trinity – Clifton Community of Faith  
United Church of Canada**



**December 22, 2019 10:30 a.m.**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent  
"Twas the Evening of Christmas"  
– Christmas Pageant**

**Welcome**

We are glad that you are here as a visitor, a seeker, someone looking for a new church home, or as a regular worshipper or member.

All are welcome in this place.

\*Please rise as you are able.

**The Gathering**

**Prelude** We Christians All J.S. Bach

**Words of Welcome** Rev. Doreen Bird-Daley

**Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

**Lighting of the Candle of Love**

Craig, Jessica, Charlotte, Violet & Jacob Foster

One: The angel Gabriel spoke to Mary, giving her assurance that she had found favour with God.

Two: It was God's intent that this messenger would reassure Mary, as she was about to take on a role and relationship that would overwhelm most people.

One: God's messengers, angels, are all around us, assuring us of God's presence and preparing us to risk taking on new roles and relationships.

Two: We light this fourth candle of Advent remembering the Gabriels in our lives who point us to the loving presence of God if we allow them to do so.

**Introit**                      Hope Is a Star                      VU #7, vs. 4

**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.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Our waiting has brought us to Christmas week, O God of light and love, our hearts are brimming with anticipation. In a few short days we'll celebrate once again the coming of the Light into our world. Open our hearts and minds to hear this old story in new ways and fill us with the kind of faith that Mary had as she made her Advent journey. In Christ's name, and in the way of Christ, we pray...(a moment of contemplation)**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Hymn**                      When Long before Time                      VU #248

**Memorial Angel Tree**

**Prayer of Confession**

**We have all experienced the wonders of a special gift made with love and by the hands of a child. We cherish it and keep it as our most treasured possession. Let us now look upon Your gift with the same sense of wonder and excitement. Your gift is a great treasure, not to be put away for safe keeping, but to be shared with everybody. Forgive us when we don't share the gift. Teach us that sharing love will make it grow and become even more magnificent and precious. (a time of silent prayer) Amen**

**Words of Assurance**

**"'Twas the Evening of Christmas"**

**Carol**                      O Little Town of Bethlehem      VU #64 vss. 1 & 2

**Luke 2: 1-5**

<b>Junior Choir</b>	Star Above	Lyla Wright, soloist
<b>Carol</b>	Jesus, Our Brother	VU #56
<b>Junior Choir</b>	Glory to God	
<b>Carol</b>	The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy	VU #73
<b>Solo</b>	God With Us	Samel Sunil
<b>Senior Choir</b>	Love Came Down	Allison Kelly, soloist
<b>Carol</b>	It Came upon the Midnight Clear	VU #44

**Response to the Word**

**Offering Invitation**

**Offertory**

**\*Presentation of Offering** Tune of VU #232

**Joyful, joyful as the wise ones  
brought their gifts on bended knee  
to the lowly Child in manger,  
may we bring our gifts to Thee.  
We are here, our time, our talents,  
we would dedicate as well;  
may we show Christ's love within us,  
by our lives our faith forth tell.**

**\*Offering Prayer**

**Prayers for Winter Solstice**

**Dear Lord, on this winter solstice when dark and light  
balance on the edge of time, at this season wild with  
joy and sorrow, we journey from our deserts toward  
the star. We wait expectantly. Come, Lord Jesus, tiny  
and powerful, be born again among us. O Holy Christ  
Child, You, the sheltering tree of our lives, be with us  
this Christmas season. Son of Holy Mary, thou door of  
joy, golden sun on hill and vale, we welcome You into**

**our lives, light of sun, radiance of moon. Depth of sea,  
You are our rock of rocks, our solid rock, in You we live  
and move and have our being. Companion us in our  
daily living, be with us in our pain and joy, be  
incarnate among us. Christ Child, Emmanuel, God with  
us, we herald your coming, behold! God dwells with  
us. Amen**

(adapted from words by Gail Corbett)

### **Sending Forth**

**\*Carol**            Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending            VU #25

### **\*Commissioning and Benediction**

**Postlude**            Fugue on the Magnificat            J.S. Bach

### **Greeters:**

**Head Greeter:** Marven MacDonald

**North Side:** Donna MacKay, Roddie MacLean, Susan Willis

**South Side:** Gayle Mills, David White, Carrie St. Jean

**Balcony:** John Kamphuis & Lynn Bovyer

**Clergy:** Rev. Cathie Crooks

**Minister of Visitation:** Rev. Anne Dalziel Singer

**Music Director:** Donald Fraser

**Custodians:** Lorraine Worth & Andy Gagnon

**Office Administrator:** Ellen Locke Doiron

**Web Page:** [www.trinityclifton.org](http://www.trinityclifton.org) **Email:** [trinityunited@eastlink.ca](mailto:trinityunited@eastlink.ca)

**Phone:** 902-892-4114 **Office Hours:** Mon. – Fri., 8:30 am – 4 pm

### **Announcements**

**Today's bulletins** are in loving memory of Elsworth Wheatley,  
presented by wife Evelyn Wheatley and daughter Miriam Wheatley-  
McGuire.

**Happy Birthday** today to Jean Mills, Don Wonnacott & Debby  
MacLeod, to Roma Downe-MacQuarrie on Dec. 23, to Mel Jenkins on  
Dec. 25 and to Mark Burgoyne & Keridwen Campbell on Dec. 26.

**Christmas Eve services:** December 24, for both the 4 pm and 7 pm services, please bring a penlight or a flashlight with you for the singing of "Silent Night" at the end of the service.

**Our Church Office** will be closed Dec 24 – Dec 29 for vacation.

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish Executive Minister for the Atlantic Region, has written a letter to the congregation outlining the steps taken and those which remain to be taken in the final Congregation Review. This letter was forwarded to our congregation list via email. If you did not receive it, and would like a printed copy, please ask the ushers or check at the church office.

**Clergy coverage,** while Rev. Cathie Crooks is on leave, is being provided by Rev. Anne Dalziel Singer and Rev. Doreen Bird-Daley. Rev. Dalziel Singer, Minister of Visitation, is providing pastoral care through visitation to those in assisted-living homes and in hospital. She also attends Pastoral Care Committee meetings and can be reached at #902-394-3165. Rev. Doreen Bird-Dailey is providing leadership in worship, conducting funerals/weddings and is on call for emergency pastoral care. She also attends Worship Committee and Church Council meetings and can be reached at #902-940-1863. We are most grateful for their ministries with us.

**Holiday Season – Fundscrip:** Last week, we asked people who do not regularly purchase gift cards to consider making one or two purchases before year end. We received a good response. There is still time! Cards are available Dec. 22 and Dec. 29. Last week the highest purchase was \$750. By supporting this fundraiser, we will earn over \$5000 this year.

**Christmas Shopping:** Homemade preserves and gifts will be available downstairs after this morning's service.

**2020 Church Envelopes** are now ready and are outside our church office. If you don't have contribution envelopes but would like some, please see Ellen in our office.

**United Church Calendars** are now available in our church office for \$10 each.



## Trinity-Clifton Vision Statement

We, the Trinity-Clifton Christian family, believe that God has blessed us with diversity, including diversity in sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, age, ability and faith. We believe that Jesus challenged boundaries by reaching out to all people, welcoming and honouring all in their uniqueness.

We publicly declare our commitment to openness, growth, action, and education, honouring diversity and challenging injustice in solidarity with those who experience discrimination.

We offer our resources and talents with open hands and hearts in love and service to all as we work for reconciliation and justice locally, regionally, and globally.

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As an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada, Trinity-Clifton is committed to broadening social justice concerns within church and society.

The United Church of Canada has stated:

“In order to promote mutual respect, peace, and friendship, the 40th General Council encouraged the recognition of Traditional Territories of First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples at the gatherings of the Courts and Pastoral Charges of the United Church of Canada. A proposal has been brought to the General Council Executive to encourage Parliament to include a similar acknowledgment in its Opening Address.”

We follow the lead of the United Church of Canada in acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional and unceded territory of the Abegweit Mi'kmaq First Nation.