

Nashwaaksis United Church

Sunday, December 21, 2025 - Advent 4: Love

Communion Sunday

Life Renewed

Liturgical Colour: White

GATHERING TOGETHER

Acknowledgement of Place Celebrations & Announcements

Introit: *Will you come and see the Light* VU 96 (vs 1)

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?

It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.

It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.

Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Gathering (Responsive):

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

As we wait for the light that renews all things, we lift up our hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the God whose love shines in every darkness.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Hymn: *O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word* VU 84

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus Benedictus

TLUS 19

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might;
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name,
comes in the name of our God.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name,
comes in the name of our God!**

**Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest!**

Remembering the Meal (Responsive):

In Jesus, (...) becomes living.

We remember that when Jesus sat at table with his friends, he took bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it to them, saying:

"Drink. This cup that is poured out for you is the covenant of love, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

Radiant God, (...), living the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

TLUS 20

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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Wreath Lighting (Responsive):

Holy Presence, (..) chosen.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of Hope, a reminder that God's promises shine even in the deepest darkness.

(hope candle is lit)

On the second Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of Peace, God's breath restoring us when our spirits felt weary or worn thin.

(peace candle is lit)

On the third Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of Joy, celebrating the abundance of life that flows from God's faithful presence, a joy that does not depend on circumstances but rises like light at dawn.

(pink joy candle is lit)

Today, we (...) them before you.

(love candle is lit)

This light reminds us that God's love surrounds us, renewing life where hope has grown faint and shining light into every darkness.

**We light the candle of Love, trusting that God's light renews
our lives and draws us closer to one another.**

Come, Lord Jesus: Love made flesh.

Shine in our hearts today.

Wreath Lighting Verse: *We Light This Candle* *TLUS 55*

We light this candle for love.

Await the new life within.

**May our hearts now live each day,
so love can find a way, so love can find a way.**

Ministry of Music: *When God Came Down at Christmas*

Time for the Young And Young At Heart

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 130:5-8

John 1:1-18

This is Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Message: *What We've Been Waiting For*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: *Hark the Herald*

VU 48

Instruction and Invitation

How Can I Give?

- 1) If you have internet banking, you can E-transfer funds to Nashwaaksis United Church by sending the funds to donations@nashwaaksisunited.ca
- 2) You can go to www.CanadaHelps.org and search for Nashwaaksis United Church. We are the first one on the list when searching for Nashwaaksis United Church. You can confirm it is us by checking the address.
- 3) You can reach out to Matthew and sign up for a or increase your pre-authorized remittance (PAR) donation which comes out of your bank account or credit card once a month. You can make changes to this at any time, just reach out to Matthew. His email is in today's announcements sheet.
- 4) Lastly you can give here in person by dropping your donation into the offering plate at the doors when you come in or when you leave following the worship. And if you don't have an envelope, some have been placed in the pews for your convenience.

Dedication Verse: *In the bleak midwinter*

VU 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 one, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Blessing (Responsive):

Giver of every good gift, receive our offerings

**the gifts we bring, the intentions we carry, the hopes we hold
for a renewed world. Use them to shine your love into places
still longing for light.**

And now, Holy Spirit, move among us and within us.

Bless this bread and this cup, that they may become for us a sharing in Christ's life and love.

Renew us through this meal,

that we may become bearers of your dawn, people who shine with compassion, justice, and joy in your world. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Great Amen

TLUS 21

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup (Responsive):

The body of Christ, broken for you.

The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup (Responsive):

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Come now for all has been made ready.

Sharing the meal

Hymn: *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

VU 43

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

We have waited in hope, listened for love, and shared in the feast of grace. Now we go as people renewed.

The light has come, and we carry it with us.

As the darkness deepens and the world leans toward Christmas, may the Word made flesh guide our steps.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it. Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Choral Closing: *Born in the night*

VU 95 (vs 1 & 4 adapted)

**Born in the night, Mary's Child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.**

**Love of the world, Mary's Child,
you're coming soon to reign;
saviour of all, Mary's Child,
walk in our streets again.**

Closing Music