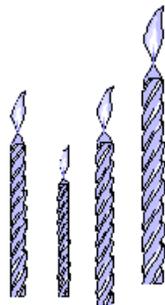


Keady, Kilsyth & North Derby Pastoral Charge

Service of Worship
Sunday, December 22, 2013
Advent 4 - "Light our Way"
"Candles, Carols and a Time of Remembrance"

Minister
Deborah McKellar

bknd.uc@gmail.com
www.denby united churches.ca



Musician:
Jennifer Wardell - Keady
Marilyn McComb - Kilsyth
Connie Radbourne - North Derby

*an invitation to stand in body or spirit

We Gather in God's Presence

Opening Words (based on Genesis and John's gospel)

L: In the beginning of creation, when God made heaven and earth, the earth was without form and void.

All: God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from darkness.

L: When all things began, the Word already was. The Word dwelt with God, and what God was, the Word was. Through him all things came to be; no single thing was created without him. All that came to be was alive with his life, and that life was the light of the world.

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

Welcome & Introduction to Advent Ritual - "Light our Way"

Silent Reflection in Darkness

Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: (from Isaiah 9:2)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shone.
(tapers are lit)

Blessing of All the Candles

Blessing the Four Corners of the Earth

1. Blessing of the East

Sung Response: (VU#678)

**Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face.**

2. Blessing of the South

Sung Response:

**Open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord,
opening into grace.**

3. Blessing of the West

Sung Response:

**Perish the sword,
perish the angry judgement,
perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain.**

4. Blessing of the North

Sung Response:

**Hallow our love,
hallow the death of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom,
hallowed by your name.**

**Your Kingdom come,
your spirit turn to language,
your people speak together,
your spirit never fade.**

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come. and the glory of God has risen upon you.

Hymn - 44 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

(after the hymn, tapers are extinguished)

Opening Prayer VU 53

Kilsyth - Intermediate Choir

Kilsyth

Dedication of New Doors - in memory of Irene McConnell

Scripture

Music for Meditation

Message

Lighting the Advent Candles: A Meditation on Light and Darkness

(when the congregation hears the reader say "Let there be light.", their response is "And there was light")

Sung Response after candles are re-lit: (vs 4 of VU#62, Once in Royal David's City)

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads
his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Carol - VU #60 vs. 1,3,4 "O Come all Ye Faithful"

We Respond with Grateful Prayers

Invitation

Prayers of the Congregation

May God be with you.

P: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them high to God.

Let us give thanks to the eternal God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Lighting candles of remembrance.

Prayers of Remembrance & The Lord's Prayer

Offering & *Offertory (tune: Away in a Manger)

**O Christmas is coming, the season is here
Of folks buying presents for friends far and near.
To you, God incarnate, our gifts now we bring.
We lay them before you while praises we sing.**

***Prayer of Dedication** (all)

**Holy One, your gifts to us are many: beauty and joy, love and hope, freedom and mercy.
We receive them and know they are meant to be shared. Accept what we offer this day as a
sign of our gratitude and of our commitment to create a more just and caring world. Amen.**

Announcements

***Closing Hymn – VU #64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

***Advent Benediction**

**L: God of the watching ones, the waiting ones, the slow and suffering ones, the angels in heaven,
the child in the womb,**

**P: Give us your benediction, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise in
the kindness of your company. Amen**

***Advent Sung Benediction- (tune is VU 48 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing")**

**Saviour, dwell with us that we
may go forth, your light to be.
Send us out, good news to sing:
Hope, peace, joy and love to bring.
God incarnate, with us dwell.
Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
Come, Lord Jesus, don't delay;
shine your peace through us this day.
Saviour, dwell with us that we
may go forth, your light to be.**

Sources: Christ-candle lighting; Benediction - "Cloth for the Cradle", Iona Community, 1997
Wild Goose Resource Group. GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American Distributor.
"Light our Way" - Joyce Rupp, 2000, Out of the Ordinary, Ave Maria Press.

**Wishing you and yours much Christmas joy and blessings,
and a happy and healthy New Year!**

A special word of thanks goes out to all our musicians and singers who have made this season of Advent such a joy-filled and inspiring time for worship. Thank you Marilyn, Connie and Jen! Thank you to Gwen on violin at Keady, the Kilsyth Senior, Intermediate and Youth Choirs, the Sunday School leaders in all our congregations, and of course all our wonderful children and young people!

Thank you also to our readers, to all who participated in planning or leading services, and to those who decorated the sanctuaries for this festive season. And huge thanks to Birdie for preparing all our bulletins – a big job in a busy season such as this. To all of you: we draw inspiration from you, and are grateful for your talents and ministries, and your gift of time and commitment.

A “Big Thank-you” to the Intermediate Choir for their performance to a full audience Monday night, also for the generous donation to the Hospice and to the Kilsyth Church.

Be sure to join us for our joint Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm at the Kilsyth church. Efforts have been made this year to shorten the length of the service so our young ones are not too restless. Everyone welcome!

- After the Service Kilsyth people pick up your Poinsettias to enjoy for the rest of the Season.

After the Christmas and Boxing Day festivities, join us at North Derby for another joint worship service on Sunday, December 29, at 10:30 am. There will be just one service on this Sunday. Come early for worship, then enjoy the rest of the day in leisure.

Book Group

We've selected "The Book of Negroes" by Canadian writer Lawrence Hill as our next book. The date to meet has not yet been chosen, but will be announced with lots of lead time. If you've not read this remarkable book, you might want to add it to your Christmas list.

Upcoming Services

Tues Dec 24 - Christmas Eve, Joint Service at Kilsyth 7 pm

Sun Dec 29 - Joint Service at North Derby, 10:30 am

No Sunday School

Sun Jan 5 - no Sunday School