

Little Current United Church Pastoral Charge
www.littlecurrent-sheguiandah-unitedchurch.org
Box 254, Little Current ON P0P 1K0 368-2941
Minister: Rev. Whitney Bruno
Music Ministry: Ruth McDonald, Judith Mosher, & Choir
** an invitation to stand in body or spirit in the service
~ BOLD PRINT- Congregational Participation

Advent 4 – Love - December 21, 2025
10:00 am at Little Current United Church

WELCOME: a special welcome to guests worshiping with us today. Please sign the guest book as you enter the sanctuary.

Gathering & Prelude

Announcements - The Life & Work of the Church
We Approach God

Centering - Anthem

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

We gather this morning on land in Little Current. Before we spoke English on this land, we spoke French and called here Le Petit Courant. Before we spoke French here, we spoke Ojibwe, also known as Anishinaabemowin, and called here Waabijewung. Many names. Many peoples. Many generations. One place. In honour of all who have come before us, may we never forget history didn't begin with English here. There are more sacred stories.

In hope of all the people after us, may we weave our lives with the peoples who call this place home.

We are all sacred people – beloved children of the Holy One.

Love - Advent wreaths are circular, representing God's infinite love,

Lighting the Advent Candle:

"Reader 1: Again, we light a candle for hope - hope for ourselves, hope for God's beloved world.

[light the shortest blue/purple candle.]

Reader 2: Again, we light a candle for peace -peace among us and peace on earth. **[light the next shortest blue/purple candle.]**

Reader 1: Again, we light a candle for joy - joy in our hearts, joy for the world. **[light pink or rose candle.]**

Reader 2: Today we remember God's love for the world, shown forth in God's beloved Child Jesus.

Reader 1: Because Jesus was human like us, we know we are all God's beloved children. God's Love shines forth in every one of us.

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Reader 2: May love shine in our hearts, as we share love and light with all who share this beloved world.

[light last blue/purple candle.]" (+1)

Advent Candle Hymn: *Hope is a Star (vs. 4 & refrain) VU 7*
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.

Call to Worship

Christ is at home in your heart

Place your hand over your heart

Close your eyes and see the candle's light in your mind's eye.

Sit quietly and notice where love is stirring... **(pause)**

Rest in the light of Love beckoning...

breathe... breathe... breathe... **(pause)**

All: Come, Love, come

Stir in our souls

Find your birthing place in our living.

Warm our hearts. Burn within us.

Radiate from us.

Come, Love, come." (+2)

Invocation

God of infinite love, of all the gifts we receive in this season, most of all we treasure the gift of your love. May we treat each person, each living being, as your beloved- especially those who may be feeling sad or lonely or ill. May we respect your wondrous creation, as we care gently for your beloved world. In the name of Jesus, Love born among us. Amen.

****Hymn: "Jesus Our Brother" VU 56**

Learning For All Ages:

"Today, we look at the animals. How many of us have animals in our Nativity sets? These are the animals from our nativity.

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Listening

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION VU 502

Eternal God, open our minds to hear your word, our hearts to love your word, and our lives to be obedient to your word, through the power of your Spirit and the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 7:10-16 (*The sign of Emmanuel*)

Matthew 1:18-25 (*Joseph's dream*)

May God's spirit shape our understanding of these words.

And may they awaken in our hearts

Sermon: "History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme"

****Learning Hymn: "Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear"** (tune VU45)

With Handbells

M4M - Your Generosity Matters -

Advent Lesson from Children

Responding to the Word

Invitation to Commitment:

Love. Love. Love. Love one another as Jesus loves you. Let us practice love by investing in one another, and this community, and our world.

(The offerings will now be brought forward)

****Offertory Hymn:** (VU 538)

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.**

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Prayer of Commitment (unison)

God of all gifts, we thank you for the blessings we enjoy: the loved ones and friends who help make our lives good, our chances to work and learn, our chances to make life better for others. In this season we especially give thanks for the child Jesus, who was born into the world to bring LOVE. Help us receive this gift well as we hear and share the message, in all we say and do. As we give thanks, we offer you our gifts, gifts of money to help your work here and around the world, gifts of food to help those in need in our own district, and most of all

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the gift of ourselves. Help us give of ourselves in love and care for others. May Good News come alive in our hearts and our community. Amen. " ⁽⁺³⁾

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

- ring a bell after each response -

Loving God - as we approach the day of Christ's birth help us to throw wide the doors of our hearts in preparation. Help us to sense the importance of what happened so long ago when Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel, to remember the words of the angels and the prophets and the teachers of old, and to celebrate all the promises that you made through them. Help us to take firm hold of the meaning of all these things and to know in the depths of our being that even now you are seeking to work in us and through us to fulfill the promises you have made....

ALL: Lord hear our prayer....

ONE: Lord - may this Christmas season be for us and for those around us a season of healing, may it be a season of hope and of love and of joy, may it be a time of true sharing and of rejoicing in all the earth....

ALL: Lord hear our prayer...

One: We pray O God for those in need around us: for those who need a second birth, for those who need a tender touch and a healing word....

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer...

One: We pray too, O God, for the children of our world - and all those of tender faith, all those who have no home to call their home, all those who are hungry and thirsty. Bless the innocent of the earth and all those who trust in you. Bless the humble and the powerless and bring down from their thrones those who are full of pride and those who are indifferent...

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer....

One; Bless the lonely. The angry. The isolated. In this season we feel the fullness of humanity - the highest highs and lowest lows - let us know you, God, are with us, know what it is to be human,

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and to have these pleasant and also awful experiences. You knew love. You knew rejection. You knew welcome. You knew abandonment.

All: Lord, hear our prayer....

One: Bless we pray, too, each special one we name before you now... **(PERSONAL PRAYER)....**

All: Lord hear our prayer....

One: We ask these things O God, with hope and praise in our hearts, our minds, and our souls, through Christ Jesus our Lord, who taught us to pray... (+4)

....Our Mother/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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

****HYMN** "Hark the Glad Sound" **VU 29**

Benediction & Carrying out the Light:

May God, the God of love, bless you
May you find love in your quiet moments and in your loud.
May you know God crossed heaven and earth to come to you
To meet you where you are and declare you are holy.
You are loved. And may you be assured love follows and leads you
all the days of your life - and beyond. - *Light is extinguished.*

Choral Benediction: MV 213 Take Up His Song 2X

*Take up his song of peace and go into the world.
Take up his song of peace in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
lay them down, in peace,
lay them down, and take up his song.*

Go now in the peace of Christ!

**Welcome to Worship
With
Little Current Pastoral Charge**



**'Love'
Advent 4 Sunday**

December 21, 2025

Hymns for December 21, 2025 – Little Current UCPC

#1 Jesus Our Brother VU 56

1. 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.

2. "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.

3. "I," said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave him my mange for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head;
I," said the cow, all white and red.

4. "I." said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I," said the sheep, with curly horn.

5. "I," said the dove, from the rafters high,
"I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;
I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

6. Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

~ ~ ~

#2 Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear

1."Gentle Joseph, Joseph dear,
stay with me, for the baby's near;
God will surely your goodness hear,
as you will love this new-born child." Says Mary.



2."Gentle Mary, Mary mine,
I will cradle the child divine;
Here will heaven and earth combine,
for you will bear God's child, O dearest Mary."

3."Peace to all and God's good will,"
heaven and earth with this song will fill;
Soon will God, in the evening still,
be born in Bethlehem, the child of Mary.

~ ~ ~

#3. Hark the Glad Sound VU 29

1.Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song. .

2.He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3.He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

4.Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.



Sources Resourced (used with permission)

(+1) – from *Let Us Pray, Volume 4* by Jane Doull, used with permission.

(+2) – by Lori Megley Best, used with permission.

(+3) – from *Let Us Pray, Volume 4* by Jane Doull, adapted.

(+4) – written by Richard J. Fairchild, and posted on his Kir-shalom website, adapted