

**Visions United Spirit Gathering
December 2, 2022
From Generation to Generation
Advent 4: "We See God in Each Other" (Love)**

** Stand as able*

Our Community Gathers

Gathering Music/Prelude

Welcome

*God's Doors Are Open to All!
Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts
Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all
races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,
sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.*

Acknowledgement of Land

One: We remember with gratitude
that we live and worship on lands that are, by law,
the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq.

**All: May we live with respect on this land,
and in peace and friendship with its people**

Sharing of WOW moments

Threshold Moment We See God in Each Other *adapted Shawn Redden from Sanctified Art*

Theme Song (*seated*) From Generation to Generation *Words: Debi Burns
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From generation to generation,
we have shared the Christmas story
of a baby in a manger,
who was born in Bethlehem.
Hope is winging, Peace now ringing,
Joy we're singing, Love he's brining

We see God in one another
As we learn to love each other.

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Love

Candle lighters: Anna & Bill Peters

Sharing the Peace

The Love of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

***Song** (*stand*) VU#7 Hope is a Star (*v4, refrain*)

Words: Brian Wren, Music: Joan Collier Fogg
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We Listen for Wisdom

Theme Conversation for All Ages Christmas Traditions from Generation to Generation
(*Children's program begins*)

Wisdom Reading

Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth

Luke 1: 46-55

Song of Mary (Magnificat) (VU#898, refrain 1)

Words/Music: Michael Joncas©1988 Gia Publications.

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Luke 1: 56-58

Mary returns home & Elizabeth gives birth

Invitation to Prayer

Prayer for Healing and Confession

Adapted Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | sanctifiedart.org.

God of today and tomorrow, and every generation:

When Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house.

Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her.

How often do we have that same opportunity?

How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off?

How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy?

How often do we miss your presence in the present of each other?

- *Silent prayer*

Gracious God, we seek healing in all our relationship.

We want to see you when we see our neighbor.

May it be. Amen.

Promise of Grace

Let us respond together, using the words from Mary's song:

"My soul magnifies

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for you have looked with favor on me, your servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed." (Luke 1:46:55 NRSV)

Tone Chimes Special Music

Away in a Manger

Music: William James Kilpatrick, Public Domain

Arr. Desmond Hassell ©1992.

Reflection

Crossing Thresholds

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Affirming the Story in Faith

We believe that creation is inextricably linked.

We belong to one another in an undeniable way.

We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh, life breathed into dust.

We believe that God invites us to live into that truth—

to love without abandon,

to see the good in one another,

to trust that all belong to God.

We know that this life of connection is easier said than done,

which is why we gather in this space, week after week,

generation after generation, to be reminded:

We see God in each other.

This we believe. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity & Offering of Our Gifts *(Gifts brought forward during singing)*

Song: O What a Wonderful Gift *(refrain, v4, refrain)*

Words/Music: Linnea Good
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Refrain:

Oh — what a wonderful gift!
Oh — what a wonderful gift!
God gives lives of hope and --love.
Oh, what a wonderful gift!

Verse 4:

So, as we bring our gifts,
And of-fer them with pray'r,
May we be people seeking peace
And justice ev-'ry-where

Refrain plus tag:

Oh, what a wonderful, Oh, what a wonderful, Oh what a wonderful gift!

An Invitation to Gather at Table

***Carol** *(stand)* VU#62 Once in Royal David's City *(v1&2)*

Words/Music: Public Domain Harmony:
Arthur Henry Mann ©1957 Desc.: David Willcocks ©1970 Oxford University Press
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A Story to Gather Us at Table

One: Come... that will stay with us always.

**ALL: At this table we remember God's promises
of Emmanuel – God-With-Us.
Light and love enfleshed;
dwelling with us.**

One: *(Prayer continues)* ... from generation to generation,
will live in peace and be led in love. So, we come:

**ALL: We come to be comforted at this table
by a handful of bread
and a taste of love,
that will stay with us always.**

Carol *(seated)* VU#62 Once in Royal David's City *(v3)*

Prayers of Community

Blessing of the Bread & Wine

Carol VU#62 Once in Royal David's City *(Words: Mary Beth Moriarty; adapted by Shawn Redden)*

May the bread of life enfold us,
may the wine instill that love,
of the Christ child, long foretold us,
now proclaim from heaven above.
Come and gather at our table,
worship Christ the newborn King.

Breaking the Bread & Pouring of Wine

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

*We are using bread & grapes, instead of juice.
Please wait to eat until we are all served.
Instrumental while elements are served.*

Prayer After Communion (unison)

As we journey to the manger
we hold space for the Christmas Child
to dwell within us.
We wait expectantly for Emmanuel
– God with us and for us –
To once again be incarnate in the world
May it be so.
May we see God in each other
and all things in God
this Christmastime
and always. Amen.

The Work of the Congregation - Announcements

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

***Song (stand)** VU#46 Gentle Mary Laid her Child *Words: Joseph Simpson Cook Music: Alta Lind
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Blessing

Words: Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Postlude Music for the Journey

***Thank You for Joining Us!
May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.***