



## *Welcome to Grace*

**Sunday, December 21, 2025 @ 10:30 a.m.**

Order of Service – Fourth Sunday in Advent -Love

**Lead Elder:** Linda Clarke

**Preacher:** Esther Ekong

**Music Ministry:** Kimberley Allen-McGill and the Grace Worship Team

**Prelude:** Do You Hear What I Hear? (Kim + Worship Team)

**Welcome and Announcements** (Linda Clarke)

### **Lighting the Advent Candle of Love**

Reader: Please help as we light the Candle of Love. You'll find the reading on the screen.

Reader: Are you ready?...

Reader: Jesus is coming: God's love for us.

**All: The promise of God is sure: 'But you, O Bethlehem... from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule... he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord.'**

Reader: We celebrate the coming of Jesus as God's gift: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'

**All: Until the day when the world is filled with God's promised, never-stopping life, we receive and celebrate the costly, sacrificial love with which Jesus loves us.**

Reader: As the candle of love is lit, let's welcome the love of God, revealed in Bethlehem's child. Let his love spill into us, fill us up, and flow through us ... to transform the world.

**All: We pledge ourselves as God's loved partners to love the world God loves, not counting the cost.**

*The candle of love is lit.*

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, in you we discover the realest, truest love. We are quick to say how "we love this or that." We say that we love people.... Yet, we are reluctant to love when love is difficult. For times when we have given-up; for times when our own convenience or comfort has mattered more than another person's well-being, forgive us. Heal our hearts.**

*[Silent prayer]*

**All: Lord Jesus, you who reveal God's love, help us truly see those people we may overlook, but who have *immense value* to you. Open our hearts and hands to love the loveless, lift up the forgotten, and restore the lost. Amen.**

*(Adapted from liturgy by Rev. Dr. W. J. Clyde Ervine, for Presbyterian World Service & Development)*

**Advent Candle Lighting Song:** Hope is a star BP119

**Song 1:** People look east BP125

**Song 2:** Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope

**Second Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-16 (Jane Pilkington)

**Offertory Anthem:** Have You Heard (A Christmas Spiritual) *by Jay Althouse* (Worship Team)

**Doxology:** In the bleak mid-winter BP145 vs. 4

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (Esther Ekong)

**A Prayer for the Children** (Majelle Guillemette)

**Song 3:** Light One Candle vs. 1-4 by Natalie Sleeth

**Pastoral Prayer** (Linda Clarke)

**Third Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25 (Esther Ekong)

**Sermon:** “The Sacred Middle: Where God Meets Us” (Esther Ekong)

**Song 4:** What Child is This? (*Greensleeves*)

**Benediction** (Esther Ekong)

**Sung Blessing** I am walking a path of love (hope, peace, joy, love)

**Postlude** (Kim)

*Please join us after the service for coffee/tea in St-Andrew's Hall!*

