



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021
Christmas Program: *Welcome to Bethlehem*

Centering for Worship

Lucinda Franks

Advent Candle: Love

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Invitation to Generous Gifts

Craig Lounsborough

Reminder of Generous Giving Opportunities

Doxology

Prayer Dedication

All: Dear God, this Advent season we wait with love, and we give with love. Love for You our God; Love for all people. Receive these generous offerings and use them for Your works of love in our world. Amen.

Prayer of the People and Our Lord's Prayer

Bethlehem Prayer

Rev. David Giuliano, Moderator of The United Church of Canada

O Mystery as grand as the universe; O Mighty Force of all creation; O Power beyond all our power, You have come to us as an infant. Vulnerable, fragile, beautiful. You have come to us in the midst of poverty, powerlessness and longing. Come again, O Promiser of Peace. Come again, to the city of your birth mired in fear, oppression and injustice. Come again, where Children dream of homes they have never seen. Come again, where those who cry out again of forced journey to Bethlehem. Be born again in the camps. Be born again in stables and homes. Be born again in many cities and languages. Be born again among nations. Be born again in places of injustice. Be born again a promise of hope, a sign of love and joy to the world. Be born again in our hearts, that we too might be called Makers of peace and Children of God. We pray this in Jesus' name who taught his disciples to pray saying "Our Father..." Amen.

Song: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

What Do I Want for Christmas? Ann Weems

You are now cordially invited to journey with us. Welcome to Bethlehem.