

# Corner Brook United Church

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**Ministers:** Rev John van Vliet  
Rev Jocelyn Cook

**Ministers Emeritus:** Rev Clayton Parsons  
Rev Harry Whitehorne

**Music Director:** Jennifer Billard

**Office Staff:** Cathy Quigley

## Office Hours:

**Monday – Thursday 10 am – 2 pm**

We're able to receive bulletin info until **Wed. at 1 pm**

**Rev van Vliet's** email is [firstministercb@gmail.com](mailto:firstministercb@gmail.com)

His phone is **632-7129**.

**Rev Cook's** email is [13scoutie@gmail.com](mailto:13scoutie@gmail.com)

Her phone is **689-6795**.

## Washrooms

**Upstairs:** through the door to the right of the stage

**Downstairs:** the exit between the two coat racks

We strive to be a **scent free** facility.

# Corner Brook United Church

**December 21, 2025**



## Gathering in the Presence of God

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – *Advent 4 - Love*

Minister: Rev. Jocelyn Cook

### Gathering / Welcome / Announcements

#### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

#### Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we gather. The island of Newfoundland is the ancestral homeland of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuck. We also recognize the Innu and the Inuit as the original people of Labrador. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of the province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation.

**Introit**        “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VU # 1 v 1 & 5

#### Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

We gather together in this place:

**prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,**  
we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

**we who dare to dream God's dream.**

We speak out with Zechariah.

**God's name be blessed forever!**

For God has remembered us in mercy,  
**and remained faithful to us in love.**

Because of God's tender compassion,  
**the dawn from on high will rise over us.**

Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.

**We have come to wonder and praise.**

2

Let us pray –

God of love, both ancient and new, you continue to create and animate this world with the tenderness and protection of a loving parent.

You did not set the world spinning only to walk away from us. No, you remain faithful to us even when we do not recognize you.

The story of Zechariah reminds us that our stories are filled with your faithfulness, your steadfastness, and your patience. But the story is not yet fully written.

Even as we struggle through hardships today, the story continues to unfold. Help us to trust in the story, in your faithfulness, in the good news that you are redeeming all things.

We join with Zechariah and proclaim: because of your deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace. Amen.

**Opening Hymn**        “All Earth is Waiting” VU # 5

#### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

**Person A:** The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways.

**Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. But who is telling the story changes how we hear it, how we imagine it, how we experience it. We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold.**

*Light the first candle.*

**We light the candle of peace because peace requires us to pay attention to the needs of those around us.**

*Light the second candle.*

**And we light the candle of joy because joy sustains us in the midst of uncertainty.**

*Light the third (pink) candle.*

**Person A:** Close your eyes for a moment and imagine what you once thought was impossible coming to fruition: the husband of Elizabeth never believing they would be parents, holding his infant son, John.

**Person B:** Open your eyes. Zechariah, holding John, experiences an unexpected joy that leads to love.

**Person C:** A love that reclaims and reorients all who are present toward the possibilities of God.

**Person D:** A love that makes the most difficult of situations bearable and all things seem possible, even situations that dehumanize, harm, and belittle.

**Person E:** A love that invites a lifelong, generation-transcending commitment to mercy, justice, and peace.

**Today, we also light the candle of love because love makes the impossible possible.**

*Light the fourth candle.*

**Sing** Hope is a Star VU # 7 v 4

### **We Hear the Word**

#### **Call & Prayer of Confession**

God of love, you teach us songs of praise and call us to proclaim justice. We confess the ways that we instead use our words and voices in ways that cause harm.

We share half-truths, spread gossip, and speak unkindly.

We fail to speak up for the vulnerable.

We pay lip service to our faith instead of taking risks in the name of love.

Help us to love you and our neighbors with courage and conviction, in word and in deed. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God of whispers and shouts, you proclaim the good news of love from all corners of creation. As we turn to our scriptures, may the words inspire us to dream of a world where love thrives among us. Amen

**First Testament Reading** Isaiah 7: 10-16

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 80 VU p 794 Part One

**Hymn** “Hark the Glad Sound” VU # 29

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1: 57-80

#### **CHARACTER NARRATIVE**

**Liturgist:**

**Zechariah:**

**Liturgist:**

**Zechariah:**

### **Responding to God’s Call**

#### **Special Music/Anthem**

**Congregation** “The Will to Dream”

## Invitation to Offering

### Offering / Offertory “All That I Am”

All that I am, all that I do,  
 All that I'll ever have I offer now to you.  
 Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord.  
 Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward.  
 All that I am, all that I do,  
 All that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

.....lyrics: Sebastian Temple

### Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, we bring our gifts and offerings to you because the voices of the prophets remind us of something bigger, something greater than any system this world offers us. We believe when we trust you with our resources, the kin(g)dom of God comes much closer to reality on earth. Help us steward these gifts to create abundant life and love. Amen.

### Communion Hymn “You Are My Body” MV # 200

## HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the table

Long ago, ... the feast is prepared.

### The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God.

## We joyfully give our thanks and praise.

It is a joyous occasion ... we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in  
 the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, ... give us the will to dream once more.

### Words of Institution

We receive this bread ...we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ was executed.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Let us pray:

God, in whom we live ..yearning to know your nearness...

*(SILENCE)*

Hear our prayers, Lord.

**May your gentle love make us brave and kind.**

Your love is the heart of this community.... for the church universal...

*(SILENCE)*

Hear our prayers, Lord.

**May your fierce love make us bold dreamers.**

Your love is the heart of our world...we lift to you the prayers of our hearts...

*(SILENCE)*

Hear our prayers, Lord.

**May your boundless love make all things whole.**

Holy God, we have seen ... to live a life full of prophetic imagination.

With confidence, we pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying:

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kin(g)dom 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 kin(g)dom, and the power, and the glory  
forever. Amen.**

### **The Elements are Shared**

#### **PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION**

Creator of all good things, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of blessing, small in their presentation, yet magnificent in our holy imagination.

May the love of the Lord's table accompany us on our journeys from here. Amen.

#### **Affirmation of Love**

We believe in the power of love, a love that not only comforts but liberates. A love constructed with care, compassion, and courage, providing shelter and safety for all God's children. We believe in love's guardrails of grace and mercy. Love does not demand or wait for perfection, but scoops us up in arms of unconditional care, where we are, as we are.

We believe, with gratitude, in a legacy of love, a long thread of memory recalling who we are and whose we are, stitching us into its tapestry of belonging.

We believe love is not earned. Love is not control. Love is care and connection.

We believe love holds no secrets. Love does not shame. Love speaks up. Love makes space.

Because God's love doesn't give up on us, we will not give up on ourselves or each other.

We will remember and bless. We will fix what is broken.

We will look for the dawn of God's love in and around us.

**Closing Hymn** "Once In Royal David's City" VU # 62

#### **Charge: A Call to Advocacy**

To embody love is more than sentiment.

It is choosing, every day, to see the worth and good in ourselves, others, and this world.

So, we go forth from this place modeling merciful love, and remembering God is love.

Though it may be difficult to understand, we see what it means modeled in Jesus.

May blessings flow from our mouths as we seek to be love in this world.

#### **Benediction**

**Choral Benediction** "One In Love"

One in love, one in friendship true,

One in hope, one in spirit, too.

One in faith that God will care for you –

Till we meet together again...words and music: Judith A. Helms, 1989

### Resources Used

1. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025. Written by **Sara Lambert**. Copyright © 2024. P 291 Used with permission. Adapted.
  2. © 2025 Illustrated Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.
- WORSHIP LITURGY • THE WILL TO DREAM. Provided under limited license.  
ADVENT FOUR • MERCIFUL LOVE • LUKE 1: 57-80/

### Memorials

**Flowers:** Flowers have been placed in memory of loved ones by the Allen Family

**Local:** In loving memory of Grandmothers, Mary Follett & Rosemary Crewe by Matthew Follett

### Announcements

Christmas Eve Service is Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Worship on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, will be at 11:30am.

There are still a few 2026 church calendars available at the office for \$10 each.

The next **Outreach Luncheon** will be on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am – 12:30pm. Volunteers are always welcome.

The **choir** rehearses on Fridays at 2PM in the music room. New members are always welcome.

### Seniors Worship

Bayshore – Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

Mountainview – Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>