

Welcome to Worship!
Sunday, December 17, 2023
Advent IV – the Sunday of LOVE
Ralph Connor Memorial United Church
Worshipping in Canmore

Minister – Rev Greg Wooley
Music – Tanya Sullivan, Cathy Harrop
Greeters – Randy & Sue Nichols
Worship Leader – Jim McPherson
Kids Connection – Faye Forbes Anderson
Coffee Time – Sim Gascoyne and Sue Shellian



**Advent Candle Song
on this Sunday of LOVE:
Voices United #007
“Hope Is a Star”
*Verse 4***



*~Brian Wren & Joan Collier Fogg~
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4. 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.
-end-



Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

After the candle is lit:

VOICE 1: Let us pray:

**ALL: Source of light, shine in our lives
and in your world with your unending
love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**



Carol: Voices United #44
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

~Edmund Hamilton Sears – Richard Storrs Willis~

*Children may proceed to “Kid’s Connection” during the singing of this hymn.
They will return to the sanctuary in time for the Anthem.*

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
to hear the angels sing.

4. For, lo! The days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

~end~

Preparing to Hear the Word:

A time of quiet reflection

Chant *(seated)*:

“God, Prepare me to be a Sanctuary”

More Voices # 18

~ John W. Thompson & Randy Scruggs ~

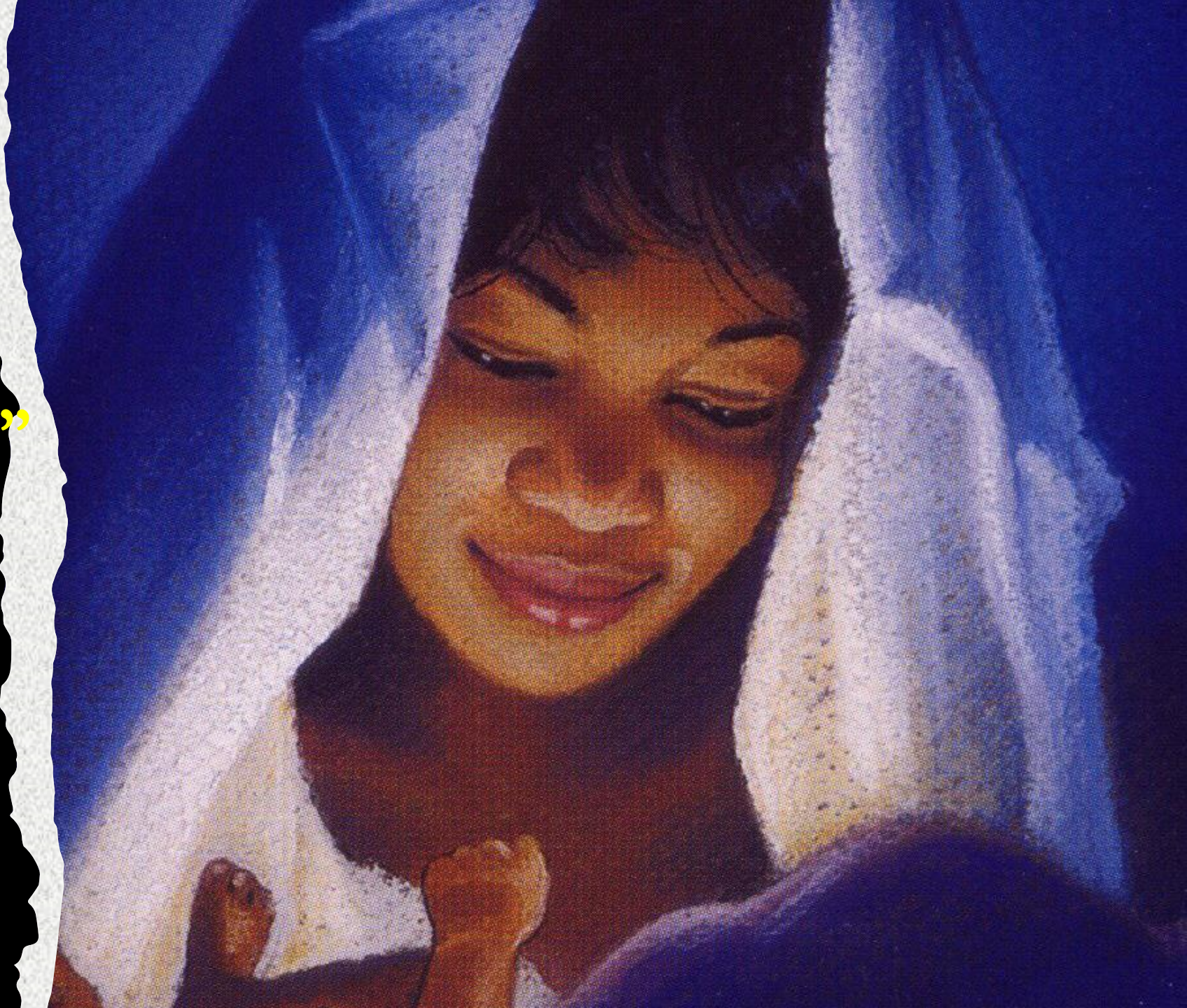
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God, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true:
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.

(repeat)

Hymn: MV #120
The Canticle
of the Turning:
“My Soul Cries Out”

~Rory Cooney, 1990~
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1. “My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight
on your servant’s plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?”

CHORUS:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

2. “Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
and your mercy will last
from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might,
put the strong to flight
for the world is about to turn.

CHORUS:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

3. From the halls of power
to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread,
ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

CHORUS:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'til the spear and rod
shall be crushed by God
who is turning the world around.

FINAL CHORUS:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

~end~

Offertory Hymn:
Voices United #73
“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”
(*verse 1 + chorus*)

~a carol from the West Indies~

**1. The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name is Jesus.**

*He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious Kingdom.
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious Kingdom.
Oh yes! Believer! Oh yes! Believer!
He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious Kingdom.
-end-*

Offertory Prayer (*unison*)

O God, may you find in us hearts and hands and voices willing to serve in Christ's name. In these gifts and all that we share, may these communities be blessed, and your loving wholeness known throughout the earth. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Beloved, in whom is 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, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Blessing

**Closing Song of Praise:
More Voices #33, verse 4**

*~Traditional Song, Cameroon~
Arrangement © 2007 United Church of Canada~*

**Jesus came bringing us love (X3)
Hallelujah Forevermore!**

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JOIN US FOR A

BOW VALLEY CHRISTMAS

ON DECEMBER 24TH

BANFF

CANMORE



**RUNDLE
MEMORIAL UNITED
CHURCH**

102 BANFF AVE, BANFF

**RALPH CONNOR
MEMORIAL UNITED
CHURCH**

617 8TH STREET, CANMORE

5:30PM

8:30PM

