

DECEMBER 22, 2024
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Ministers: All of God's People
Leader: Liz Church

✦ indicates when those who are able will please stand

Welcome, Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Territorial Acknowledgment (together)

This land where we live has been home to countless Indigenous people before us. We acknowledge this truth and recognize that we must learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our role as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers.

WE WELCOME GOD

✦ Opening Hymn – VU# 603 'In Loving Partnership We Come'

Opening Prayer

Lord, of all majesty and power – we come before You and offer our praise to You. Our worship today will centre around Your Love. We thank You for all You have given us. May You be pleased today as You hear Your children singing glory and honour to You. Amen

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Call To Worship - Psalm 145

Insert

Lighting of the Christ Candle

As we light the Christ Candle today, we will remember that through the love of God we are able to share with the world the message of Light, Jesus Christ. Praise be to God.

WE LISTEN FOR WISDOM

✦ Illumination Hymn – VU # 273 (vs. 1 & 6)
'The King of Love'

Prayer of Illumination

God of all wisdom, our hearts yearn for the warmth of Your love, and our minds search for the light of Your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour, and strengthen us to grow in love, that at the dawn of His coming we may rejoice in His presence and welcome the light of His truth. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Scripture

Reader: Open your hearts and minds to God's Word.

All: We listen as the sacred Word is shared with us.

John 1: 1-18 New Living Translation

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

PUC - Christmas Peace Canon
Arranged by Jean Anne Shafferman

EUC – Send The Light
Music and Words by Charles H. Gabriel

Reflection: Love in A World of Chaos

Prayers of the People/ The Lord's Prayer
VU # 26 – An Advent Prayer

Who are we, O God, that You should come to us? Yet You have visited Your people and redeemed us in Your Son. As we prepare to celebrate His birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of Your Word, and move us by Your Spirit to bless Your wonderful works. We ask this through Him, whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, even Your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...Our Father who art in Heaven.

GOD'S PROVISION – OUR GIFTS

Offertory Hymn: MV # 182 'Grateful' – refrain only (X2)

Offertory Prayer

For Your love, Lord, we praise You. For Your bounteous gifts we thank You. Take our offering this day; bless it and use it for the extension of Your Kingdom. Amen

✦ Closing Hymn: VU # 82 – 'A Light is Gleaming'

Commissioning

You have been called to love, to serve, to fellowship with each other. Your opportunities will be many this week. May you be blessed as you share Jesus with the world.

Benediction – Numbers 6: 24-26 New Living Translation

May the Lord bless you and protect you.
May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord show you His favour and give you His peace.
Now and forever. Amen

Choral Blessing - VU # 586

' We Shall Go Out with Hope and Resurrection'

OUR CHURCHES UNITED

ELGIN-PORTLAND PASTORAL CHARGE



DECEMBER 22, 2024

We have one important birthday this week, Wednesday is the day we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

Sylvia French – Our condolences and prayers are sent to the French family. On Monday, December 16th, Sylvia left this earth, surrounded by her family. She now abides with her Lord. She was a friend to countless people and her gifts were at work here in the Portland United Church for many years. God's blessing on Will, Pauline and the extended family. Know you are loved.

This is the Service schedule for the duration of this year. Liz Church will be the speaker. Sunday the 22nd. Regular service and time in both churches. Christmas Eve the 24th. Portland Service at 4 p.m., Elgin 7 p.m. Sunday the 29th. Joint service at Portland 10 a.m.

Sunday the 5th of January 2025 back to normal two services and times with Norma Wrightly in the pulpit.

Annette's days of work are over the holiday period.

Christmas week: Annette will be in on Monday and Tuesday, the 23rd and 24th until Noon, to prepare for the Christmas Eve Services. She will also be in on Thursday and Friday, the 26th and 27th, to prepare for the service on the 29th.

Annette will be off Monday and Tuesday of the New Years week the 30th and 31st but will work the Thursday and Friday of that week the 2nd and 3rd.Ted

Bible Discussion Groups will resume after the holidays on January 6th and 7th. Info: Jim at ccjimbarton@gmail.com or 613-328-4089.

Advance notice **JAN 25, 2025 - our Canadian Women in Song** troupe plays at the **Joshua Bates Centre, Athens**. Get your tickets early. joshuabatescentre.com

Elgin Portland Pastoral Charge

PO Box 251, Portland ON K0G 1V0

Web site: www.eppc-ucc.com (or.ca)

Church Office: (613) 272-2002

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Secretary: Annette Clarke, E-mail: office@eppc-ucc.com

Chair of the Official Board: Clint Halladay

Church Council Chairs:

Elgin: Clint Halladay 613-359-5607 **Portland:** Katy Gibson (613) 929-9351

Pastoral Care Director: Liz Church (902) 441-5357

Call To Worship Psalm 145

Reader: The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

ALL: The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all His creation.

Reader: All of your works will thank you, Lord, and your faithful followers will praise you.

ALL: They will speak of the glory of Your kingdom; they will give examples of Your power.

Reader: They will tell about Your mighty deeds and about the majesty and glory of Your reign.

ALL: For Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations.

Reader: The Lord always keeps His promises; He is gracious in all he does.