

DECEMBER 21, 2025
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Ministers: All of God's People

Leader: Liz Church

Pianist: Janet McKeage

Welcome, Announcements / Birthdays & Anniversaries

Land Acknowledgement

The lands we live on belongs first to God. These lands on which we live and worship, were cared for by the Anishinabee and Haudenosaunee peoples for generations before us. We acknowledge this truth and continue to work toward truth and reconciliation.

Hymn – VU # 2 ‘Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus’

Call To Worship

ONE: In the midst of fear and confusion, God brought hope.

ALL: Thanks be to the God of Hope.

ONE: In the midst of chaos, God brought peace.

ALL: Thanks be to the God of Peace.

ONE: In the midst of conflict and stress, God brought joy.

ALL: Thanks be to the God of Joy

ONE: In the midst of a world that was lost, God brought Love.

ALL: Praise be to God who loves us and brought us New Life.

Choir: ‘Joseph’s Song’ (Lloyd Larsen)

Reading for 4th Sunday of Advent Candle Lighting

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn – VU # 8 ‘Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming’

Lighting of the Christ Candle

ONE: In the midst of darkness, God brings Light.

ALL: Thanks be to the God of Light.

Illumination Hymn – VU # 17 ‘O Ancient Love’

Prayer of Illumination

Dear Holy One, we are always amazed as we read Your Word. Enlighten us today, that we might grasp the depth of love You have poured out for us, beyond human understanding, so that we might be able to have eternal life. We thank You for your Word. Amen

Scripture:

ONE: Open your hearts and minds to God’s Word.

ALL: We listen with hope as the Scripture is read this day.

Matthew 1: 18-25

ONE: This is the Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music : ‘This Peaceful Night’ (Price/Besig)

Reflection:

‘Jesus – Reason for the Season and Every Day of our Lives’

Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Hymn - VU # 515

‘Holy Spirit, Source of Love’ – 1st verse only

Offertory Prayer:

We have given back to You, our gracious Lord, a small portion of our monetary abundance. We ask that you use it for growing and building your church both here and abroad, that others will see Christ at work through your church.

Closing Hymn: VU # 333 ‘Love Divine, All Loves Excelling’

Benediction:

You will leave this sacred place today and venture into a world where you will see many who are hurting, many who are alone, many who are lost. As you reach out, tell them about God’s love. Remind them that Jesus is Love and is there for them. You are God’s people. They need you; they need Christ.

Commissioning

Jude 1:24-25: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy - to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Choral Blessing – MV # 218 – ‘May the Love of the Lord’

**Christmas Eve in Portland is 4:00 and 7:00 in Elgin.
No service on Christmas day
Joint service at 10:00 in Elgin on December 28th.
Normal service times resumes on Jan 4**

The 2025 Annual Meetings scheduled for March 1st

PUC: following worship service

EUC: following worship service

EPPC: following EUCs ACM

Annual reports are due to the office by January 20th, treasurers' reports by January 27th.

Free Art Classes in the Portland Village – 6-12 yrs. Monday 4:30-6:15 at the Portland Restaurant & Pizzeria. Visual Art Teacher – Darlene, call to book your spot 905-801-5060.

Bible Discussion Groups

The two weekly Bible Discussion Groups will take a few weeks off during the holidays and resume their meetings in the new year on January 5th and 6th. If you would like to start your new year with greater understanding of God's word, please join us for lively discussions and encouraging fellowship. Contact Jim Barton at ccjimbarton@gmail.com or (cell) 613-328-4089.

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: Katy Gibson

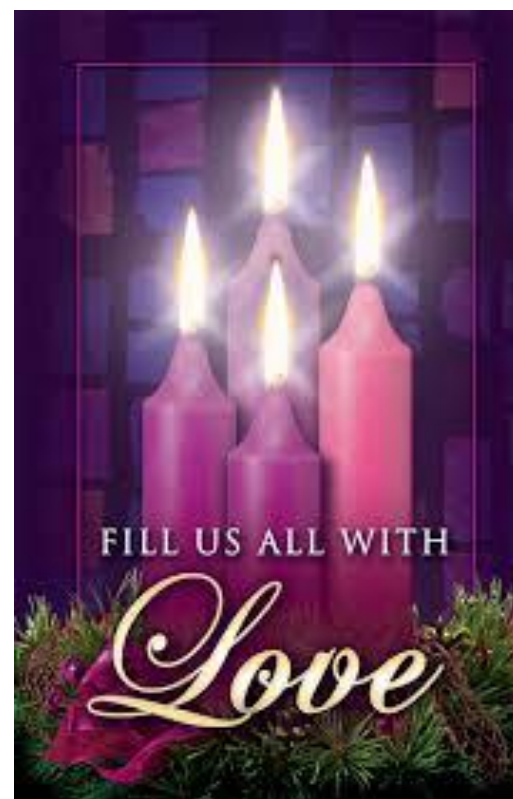
Church Council Chairs:

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

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

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ELGIN-PORTLAND PASTORAL CHARGE



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Advent Hymn: 'Christ, Be Our Light'

Reading for 4th Sunday of Advent Candle Lighting

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn – VU # 18 'There's a Voice in the Wilderness'

Lighting of the Christ Candle

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Illumination Hymn – VU # 17 'O Ancient Love'

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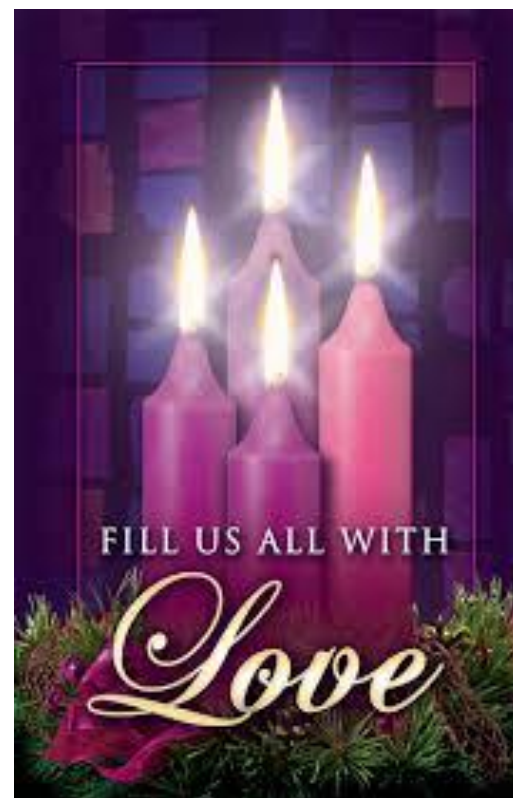
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