



506 4 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 1S7 kxcalgary.com

December 18, 2022 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader: The Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis
Music Director: Chellan Hoffman **Knox United Church Choir**
Cantor: Pete Dennis, Karen Harrison **Reader:** Roman Sizer

*We extend a warm welcome to our Knox community – to those who are tuning in to the livestream service from home or away, and to those who are gathered in our sanctuary.
You are all an integral part of this community. Thank you for being here.*

We acknowledge that we live, work, play and worship on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani), the TsuuT'ina, the Stoney Nakoda Nations (Bears paw, Chiniki, and Wesley), the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

All are welcome in our faith community, regardless of age, colour, ethnic, religious or linguistic background, gender, gender identity, social or economic circumstances, sexual orientation and physical or mental capabilities. Knox has been a proud member of Affirm United since 2007.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE A Maiden Most Gentle French carol, arr. Andrew Gant
Of the Father's Love Begotten plainchant arr. Charles Callahan

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

***HYMN** "What Child is This?" VU 74

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent – a time of preparation and waiting.

All: We wait expectantly for love to be born anew.

One: We light the fourth candle.

All: May love surround us, accompany us and invite us to be love in the world.

One: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

All: O Come, O, Come, Emmanuel!

ADVENT SONG “Hope is a Star” VU 7, vs 4 (sung and seated while candle is lit)

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.

OPENING PRAYER

God of stables and mangers, stars and angels, Christmas is so close we can almost hear the trumpets and taste the Christmas treats. The wait is almost over. In the midst of the busyness, help us to pause, to take in the music, to hear the message, to feel the love in this community. Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ, be with you.
And also with you. Amen.

*** HYMN “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” VU 58**

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:46-55

REFLECTION “The Songs of Christmas: Mary’s Song” Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis

CHOIR ANTHEM Christmas Lullaby John Rutter

*Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem: angels are singing, their sound fills the air.
Wisemen have journeyed to greet their Messiah; but only a mother and baby lie there.*

***‘Ave Maria, ave Maria’: hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.
‘Ave Maria, ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King.’***

*Where are his courtiers, and who are his people? Why does he bear neither sceptre nor crown?
Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people, with peace as his sceptre and love for his crown.*

*What though your treasures are not gold or incense? Lay them before him with hearts full of love.
Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother who bore us a Saviour by grace from above.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER *(purple music sheets available in pews)*

Cantor: Heavenly Father, **All:** Heavenly Father,
Cantor: Heavenly Mother, **All:** Heavenly Mother,

All: Holy and blest is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one, let heaven and earth become one.

Give us this day the bread we need, give it to those who have none.
Give us this day the bread we need, give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days.

Come quickly, Mother, Father, come; come quickly Mother, Father come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy,
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy.
Forever your name is all in one; forever your name is all in one.
A — men; A — men; A — men.

CANDLELIGHTING / OFFERING

You are invited to light a candle at the front of the Sanctuary. Candles are lit as a symbol of remembrance, celebration, gratitude, prayer. Please take this opportunity to make an offering online or in person at the candle table. Your financial support makes a huge difference in the future of Knox.

Music: Wexford Carol **arr. Lloyd Larsen**

***CLOSING HYMN** **“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”** **VU 43**

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE People Look East arr. Michael Bedford

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***Thank you for spending time in community worship at Knox United Church, Calgary.
May you feel God's peace, care, energy, and blessing
within you and around you this coming week.***

Please stay for coffee, tea, and conversation!

Thank You to Knox staff & volunteers:

Sheena Trotter-Dennis (minister)
Sue Forsyth (office administrator)
Jampa Tseten, Stephen Wallace (caretaker)
Carey Barrett/Frank Lam (video operator)
Tenzin Dawa/Steve Miller (sound operator)

Chellan Hoffman (director of music)
Gerald Love (greeter & usher)
Bob Benner (sanctuary preparation)
Murray, Vi, Chuck (coffee crew)
Roman Sizer (social media; IT support)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar

Tuesday December 20 @ 7:00 pm- Book Study - discussion on "Speaking Christian" by Marcus Borg
Wednesday December 21 @ 7 pm Blue Christmas: Join us in the Labyrinth
Thursday December 22 @ 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal in the Labyrinth Room
Saturday December 24 @ 7 pm Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles, Brass & Bells
Saturday December 24 @ 11 pm Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles, Communion, Brass & Bells
Sunday December 25 @ 10:30 am Carols and Readings - come in your PJ's or Ugly Christmas Sweaters
Sunday January 1 @ 10:30 am - A time to ground ourselves for the new year in music and reflection

KNOX EVENTS

Volunteers Required for Christmas Eve Services

Please sign up to usher, hand out candles and serve communion for the Christmas Eve Services.

Your assistance is urgently needed.

Please support Knox in this important way.

Please go to the Knox website and sign up for one or more of the services,
or call Sue in the office @ 403-269-8382

Christmas @ Knox

Saturday December 24 @ 7 pm Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles, Brass & Bells

Saturday December 24 @ 11 pm Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles, Communion, Brass & Bells

Sunday December 25 @ 10:30 am Carols and Readings - come in your PJ's or Ugly Christmas Sweaters

Sunday January 1 @ 10:30 am - A time to ground ourselves for the new year in music and reflection

In the Bleak Mid Winter – a series of thoughtful gatherings

Beginning January 18th, 12:30-1:30 pm, Labyrinth Room

What happens after the Christmas left-overs are finished, the kids have returned to school and the family has gone home? How do we carry hope, peace, joy and love with us through the long, cold winter days?

Join us for a time of reflection and conversation. Held in the beautiful Labyrinth Room, framed with music, a reading, and a time for silence and quiet reflection, we will come together to listen, to talk and to be in community together.

All are welcome.

Week 1 (January 18th):

In the Bleak Mid-Winter? Hope after Christmas

Week 2 (January 25th):

In the Bleak Mid-Winter? Peace after Christmas

Week 3 (February 1st):

In the Bleak Mid-Winter? Love after Christmas

Week 4 (February 8th):

In the Bleak Mid-Winter? Joy after Christmas

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Affirming Connections

Walking in Two Worlds
Thursday January 19, 2023
6 pm – 7:30 pm

A very special event on what we can learn from indigenous ways of learning and gathering, featuring Rev. Michele Rowe.

Michele (she/her) is a Metis woman whose family (both Metis/Cree and European) are rooted in the Athabasca Region of Alberta.

Michele's spiritual practices incorporated indigenous and Christian ways of connection with the Creator and Creation.

Michelle is a Registered Social Worker, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist and Certified Community and Workplace Traumatologist. She ministers alongside the faithful folks of Maple Creek United in Saskatchewan.

Join us for our January Book Study

Dear Friends, join us on zoom this coming January to discuss Brian McLaren's new book *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*.

Wisdom Centre member, the Rev. Christine Conkin (Victoria, BC), will lead a three part online study of this provocative new book from Brian McLaren. Whether you are wrestling with this question or not, all of us can relate to times of doubt, disappointment and disillusion! He concludes with a question that is important and relevant for all of us, "How are we going to live?"

Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned by Brian McLaren

An Online Book Study in 3 Parts

January 11, 18, 25 | 7:30 to 9:00pm MT

Join us on zoom this coming January to discuss Brian McLaren's new book *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*.

The book delves into contemporary Christian identity, combining "his own experience with that of thousands of people who have confided in him over the years to help readers make a responsible, honest, ethical decision about their religious identity." He offers 10 reasons to decide "no"; 10 reasons to decide "yes"; and then turns to wonder about "how?" "Whatever we decide... how can we do so in a good, honest, and loving way?" How are we going to live?

Each session will include a video introduction and time for discussion.

January 11: Introduction & Part 1 - "No"

January 18: Part 2 - "Yes"

January 25: Part 3 - "How?"

If you are interested in hearing more about this book, here is a link to an introductory video by Brian McLaren:

Brian McLaren intro to his book, "Do I Stay a Christian?"

Registration for this event is free. Click the link below to register and once you do you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom info for the online sessions.

Register for Book Study

About our study leader: The Rev. Christine Conkin has served in ordained ministry since 2006 in both Calgary and Victoria. Her spiritual life is grounded in dance and a variety of active outdoor activities, which combine with her biblical and theological studies to inform her interest in the transformation of today's church. She is currently Incumbent of St. George, Cadboro Bay in Victoria, BC

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/do-i-stay-christian-a-book-study-led-by-the-rev-christine-conkin-tickets-475664835327?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch&keep_tld=1



2022 Sing a New Song! Special Donation Sheet

Please read the following information

Use this form if you are a once-a-year donor or if you are able to make a special Christmas donation in addition to your weekly or monthly givings. Your givings make it possible to provide glorious Christmas Celebrations to all of us in the City of Calgary

Year-end donations must be received at Knox by December 31, noon. Please complete this form, attach a cheque or help us with fundraising through social media located in each pew. This enables us to keep our historic church well maintained and open to the public.

Your Personal Identification

- For long-standing donors, this information is used to assign your contribution to the correct account.
- For persons who do not normally donate to Knox, this information is used to prepare an income tax receipt.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Please check this box to allow Knox to contact you through email, social media or Newsletters and/or Event notifications to you.*

Your Special Donation to Knox:

I / we are supporting Knox United Church financially in 2022 with a special donation in the following amount: \$ _____

- I/We have included a cheque for this amount. Please fold the cheque into this document so we have your personal information for income tax receipts.

- Please contact me about making a donation of stock or other financial instrument.

**Thank You and All the Best of the Season to You and to Those You Hold
Close to Your Heart.**