

Tsawwassen United Church

4th Sunday of Advent

Dec. 21, 2008, 10:00 AM

During the season of Advent we wait expectantly to celebrate the arrival of the Christ child and the coming of God's realm of peace. The colour for Advent is blue.

*Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.
At the points marked "*****", those who are able are invited to stand.*

THE PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE: Jesus, God's Supreme Gift

~ Rex Koury

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN: Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

VU 25

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES: *(with the Williams Family)*

Holy One,

Today we light the final blue candle.

**The flame of this fourth candle completes the circle of love,
and is an invitation for each of us to share God's welcome
and gift of love to all — friend and stranger.**

Let every heart prepare his room.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN: Love is a Flame

VU 7, vs. 4 only

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.**

WE VISIT THE MANGER TOGETHER

(Children leave.)

*HYMN: Angels, From the Realms of Glory

VU 36

CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE:

- The Offering is Collected
- Announcements of the Congregation's Life & Ministry
- Doxology: What Can I Give Him VU 55, vs. 4 only

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him — give my heart.**

- Offering Prayer

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

*Cantata: And the Glory Shone Around
~ by Lloyd Larson ~*

*COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Wexford Carol

~ Phillip Keveren

Welcome to Tsawwassen United Church

www.tsawwassenunited.org

693 53rd Street, Delta, BC ❖ 604-943-2911 ❖ E-mail: info@tsawwassenunited.org
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday to Friday

Contacts

Minister:	Rose-Hannah Gaskin604-943-2911 rose-hannah@tsawwassenunited.org
Minister of Children & Families	Brenda Miller 604-274-2864brendammiller1@gmail.com
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Pastoral Care Contact:	Jean Ryan 604-948-9880
Prayer Requests:	Ethel 604-943-2949 or Rhoda..... 604-943-1674

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 21, 2008

*Steve and Bonnie Dane have placed flowers in the sanctuary today
in loving memory of their parents, Harry and Bernice Dane,
and Tom and Gertie Brett, and Bonnie's brother — Michael Brett.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT T.U.C.

TODAY **Worship Service – at 10:00 a.m.**
Advent 4 — Candle of Love. *And Glory Shone Around*, cantata
presented by the Senior Choir.



**Prayer Cycle for Vancouver South Presbytery and B.C.
Conference** – Today we pray for Ladner/St. Stephen's — the Rev.
Jim Short, the Rev. Doug Graves, the Rev. Wendy Bily, the Rev.
Doctor Cliff McMurtry.

MON. **Walking Group** – meet at **9:15 a.m.** at the school track across from
the church and walk for your health and have fun and fellowship
while walking.

WED. **Christmas Eve Family Service – at 4:00 p.m.**

All children are invited to take part in
an impromptu Nativity pageant. They
may dress up as angels, wisemen or
shepherds. Children may wear their own
costumes or borrow from our church



supply. The Junior Choir will be singing and will also have an opportunity to be in the pageant. Please come early to get ready.

Christmas Eve Communion Service – at 10:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated. Join us as we celebrate Christ's birth in word and song, and enjoy some candlelight.

NEXT SUN. Worship Service – at 10:00 a.m.

A service of carols and readings for the first Sunday after Christmas, led by the Senior Choir.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT T.U.C.

- **EPIPHANY — SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH, AT 10:00 A.M.**

YAYA, the Youth & Young Adult Ministries of the Vancouver South & Vancouver Burrard Presbyteries of the United Church, will be leading the worship service. We will share in worship through drama, music, storytelling, and scripture!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **JANUARY 4TH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There will be no printed announcements in the Sunday, January 4th, bulletin. If you have an urgent announcement please e-mail it to Rose-Hannah or speak to her before the service. It will be made verbally from the pulpit.

- **MINISTER AWAY**

Rose-Hannah will be away from December 25th to January 3rd visiting her parents and sister in Fredericton, N.B. Please contact Rev. Neill McRae for emergency pastoral care during that time at 604-940-0334.

- **DONATION ENVELOPES**

Donation envelopes for 2009 are available for pick-up in the narthex. Some envelope holders have been assigned new numbers, so **please do not use 2008 envelopes in 2009.**



- **TAX RECEIPTS**

If you want a donation included in your 2008 tax receipt please ensure the office receives it by Sunday, December 28th.

- **BIRTHDAY BAG PROJECT — EARLY WARNING**

For the past several years, the Outreach Division has coordinated preparation of bags of goodies that would allow a family to host a birthday party for a child. We have focused on ages 3 to 8 and the bags we produce are delivered to the Neighbourhood Hub in Whalley and the Ladner Food Bank for distribution. The Birthday Bag project starts up again in January. You can start bringing in your cake mixes, icings, candles, etc., any time now. Our contacts in both places have in-depth knowledge of the real need of the people who attend their organizations. Our aim is to assist the working poor in both locations.

- **FIRST UNITED OPENS ITS DOORS AT NIGHT**

In response to a request by Gregor Robertson, the new Mayor of Vancouver, the doors of First United Church will be open every night of the week til the end of winter!

Beginning Monday, December 15th, at 8 p.m., those who might otherwise be outside on the streets will be welcomed into a space that is safe, dry and warm. The building will be able to accommodate up to 150 people at any one time. People will be free to use the pews and the floor to sleep or rest. 'Hanging-out' space for those who wish to chat quietly will also be available.

First United will provide staff and volunteers creating a safe environment for those who are without accommodation to spend the night. First United will not become a licensed Shelter but will instead provide emergency space for the next three months. No services beyond access to washroom facilities will be provided.

The building will be open for 21 out of 24 hours Monday to Friday, closing only to facilitate cleaning. The Wednesday night Celebration Service and the Friday night meals will continue. On the weekends, it will be open for sleeping between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. It will not be open during the weekend daytime hours except for the meals currently served by outside community groups.

First United welcomes all offers of assistance especially donations of blankets. Volunteer opportunities between the hours of 8 p.m. and 12 midnight are also available. Volunteers are needed to welcome people into the building, to hand out blankets and to provide companionship over a game of cards or while watching television.

In addition, financial assistance in funding the extensive additional costs that this entails are always warmly welcomed!

For any concerns, questions or offers of assistance please contact First United Church at 604-681-8365 or e-mail ssevers@frstunited.ca.

Christmas Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed from Wednesday, December 25th, to Friday, January 2nd. It will reopen on Monday, January 5th.

If there is a pastoral emergency during that time please contact Rev. Neill McRae at 604-940-0334.

TSAWWASSEN UNITED CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

Reaching in, we strive to grow in Christ.

Reaching out, we nurture God's world.

- Newcomers:** If you are a newcomer, please sign our guest book in the narthex. Feel free to take home a "Welcome to this Place" brochure available on the table in the narthex. Our website contains more detailed information and a listing of upcoming events.
- Nursery Room:** Parents of infants and toddlers are invited to use the nursery room. The service can be heard there. Please ask an usher for directions.
- Fragrance Free Policy:** Tsawwassen United Church is a "fragrance free" building with regards to the scents that people wear.
- Sign-Up Sheets:** The sign-up sheets for counting and scripture reading are posted on the bulletin board to the left of the name tags board in the narthex for referral and further signing-up.
- Large Print Bulletins:** There are large print bulletins available on the table in the narthex for the vision impaired.
- Assisted Listening:** There are assisted listening devices available on the table in the narthex for the hearing impaired. Please ask an usher for directions on where to sit so it can be plugged in.
- Bulletin Deadline:** Please note that the deadline for the bulletin is Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Announcements can be e-mailed to malmond@tsawwassenunited.org.
- E-Letters:** The minister sends weekly letters via e-mail to members of the congregation. Please make sure the minister has your e-mail address. The e-letters are also posted on the church website at www.tsawwassenunited.org/ministersletter.htm. For those without internet access a printed copy of the e-mail can be found on the table in the narthex.
- Minister's Hours:** The minister's work days are Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Days off are Monday and Friday. If you have pastoral concerns or would like a visit from the minister, Rose-Hannah, please notify the church office.



We recycle our bulletins. If you are not taking your bulletin home, please leave it in the basket on the narthex table.