

# Tsawwassen United Church

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2009, 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 GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Luke 1:39–45)*

PROCESSIONAL: Longing for Light

~ *Nathen Aswell*

WELCOME

\*OPENING HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU 1

OPENING PRAYER: Luke 1:46–47

CHILDREN'S TIME — WE VISIT THE MANGER TOGETHER

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES — THE CANDLE OF LOVE:

*(with Brianna and Jason Almond)*

Cows and sheep were close to the miracle taking place that first Christmas. Their place of feeding and shelter, their home, would become the bed for our saviour. The first things he would see, the first smells he would smell, the first breath he would take is here in the stable with the animals. The manger waits to welcome the baby. A fragile new life will rest safely here.

HYMN: A Candle is Burning

VU 6, vs. 4

THE CHILDREN LEAVE FOR GODLY PLAY *(with Marilyn Merry)*

CONNECTING TO OUR HEART'S LONGING FOR WHOLENESS

*(based on Luke 1:46–50)*

\*HYMN: Prepare the Way of the Lord

VU 10 (sung 3x)

SILENT REFLECTION

## THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

READING: Luke 1:39-55

Pew Bible N.T. Page 54

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

One: This is the witness of God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CHORAL ANTHEM

*(with cellist Finn Manniche, soloist Miriam Davidson, and pianist Lia Wolfe)*

SERMON: "Mary's Wisdom"

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\*HYMN: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

VU 8

*(Sandra Dawn, Miriam Davidson and Lia Wolfe will sing it through once in German then the congregation is invited to join in for verse one and two in English.)*

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE:

- The Offering is Collected
- Announcements of the Congregation's Life & Ministry
- Doxology: In the Bleak Midwinter 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 *(cello solo by Finn Manniche)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

VU 916 (bottom)

THE LAST WORD: Micah 5:4–5

Pew Bible O.T. Page 820

\*CLOSING HYMN: Hark the Glad Sound

VU 29

BENEDICTION: *(Please be seated. The congregation is invited to join in.)*

Closing Choral Blessing: Emmanuel

*~ Jerry DesVoignes*

*(with Finn Manniche, Miriam Davidson and Lia Wolfe)*

**Alleluia – Emmanuel – Prince of Peace**

**The lamb of God is bringing peace** *(repeat)*

**All of heaven and earth shall ring,**

**glory to the new born king**

POSTLUDE

*We thank Finn Manniche, Miriam Davidson and Lia Wolfe  
for sharing their musical gifts with us this morning.*

# Welcome to Tsawwassen United Church

www.tsawwassenunited.org

693 53rd Street, Delta, BC ❖ 604-943-2911 ❖ E-mail: [info@tsawwassenunited.org](mailto:info@tsawwassenunited.org)  
Office Hours: 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays  
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM on Wednesdays  
(closed for lunch on Wednesdays from 11:45 to 12:45 PM)

## Contacts

Minister:	Rose-Hannah Gaskin .....604-943-2911 ..... rose-hannah@tsawwassenunited.org
Director of Music:	Sandra Dawn Nash ..... 778-240-4704 ..... sandra@tsawwassenunited.org
Administrative Assistant	Mary Almond.....604-943-2911 .....malmond@tsawwassenunited.org
Pastoral Care Contact:	Jean Ryan ..... 604-948-9880
Prayer Requests:	Ethel ..... 604-943-2949 or Rhoda..... 604-943-1674

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## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### December 20, 2009

*The flowers on the communion table today are placed by  
Gail Wallace-Russell in loving memory of Muriel Mary Evans,  
who had been Gail's friend, mother & mentor since Gail was a young girl.  
She passed away last December 19, 2008.*

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

**TODAY**

**Worship Service (with Godly Play) – at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Advent 4 — Candle of Love**

Joining Sandra Dawn will be special musical guests Finn Manniche (cellist), Miriam Davison (vocalist), and Lia Wolfe (pianist, vocalist, fustist).



**Prayer Cycle for Vancouver South Presbytery and B.C.**

**Conference** – Today we pray for Ladner/St. Stephen's — the Reverend Jim Short, the Reverend Doug Graves, the Reverend Wendy Bily, the Reverend Doctor Cliff McMurtry.

**THURS.**

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

All children are invited to take part in a Nativity pageant. They may dress up as angels, wise men or shepherds. Children may wear their own costumes or borrow from our church supply. The Christmas Youth Choir will be singing and will also have an opportunity to be in the pageant. Please come early to get ready.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight 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. Special music by Sweet Charity, Sandra Dawn and guest violinist Julia Latimer.

## **NEXT SUN. Worship Service (no Godly Play) – at 10:00 a.m.**

A service of carols and readings for the first Sunday after Christmas, led by Lynne Meinert. Scripture readings: 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26; Psalm 148 (VU p. 871); Colossians 3:12–17; Luke 2:41–52.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT T.U.C.**

### **• EPIPHANY — SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD, AT 10:00 A.M.**

The worship service will be led by the Reverend Wendy Bily. Jane Pallan will be our musical guest.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **• JANUARY 3RD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There will be no printed announcements in the Sunday, January 3rd, bulletin. If you have an urgent announcement please speak to the worship leader before the service. It will be made verbally from the pulpit.

### **• MINISTER AWAY**

Rose-Hannah will be away from December 25th to January 10th visiting her parents and sister in Fredericton, N.B. Please contact Rev. Wendy Bily at 604-946-1746 or Rev. Doug Graves at 604-948-5470 for emergency pastoral care during that time.

### **• DONATION ENVELOPES**

Donation envelopes for 2010 are available for pick-up in the narthex. Some envelope holders have been assigned new numbers, so **please do not use 2009 envelopes in 2010.**



### **• TAX RECEIPTS**

If you want a donation included in your 2009 tax receipt please ensure the office receives it by Sunday, December 27th.

### **• FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Your prayers have been answered! We now serve decaffeinated coffee during our fellowship time following Sunday worship. Come, join us!

### **• OUTREACH UPDATE**

#### **First Gift Envelopes**

Special First Gifts envelopes are on the table in the narthex. As an alternative to donating to the narthex Christmas tree, they can be used to make a one time donation to First United.

#### **Narthex Christmas Tree**

A decision has been made to defer delivery of tree items until December 21st. So members have until that date to donate socks, underwear, Safeway cards or cash gifts in the envelopes. Safeway cards or money donations made can

be placed in the collection plate. All other items can be placed on or under the Christmas tree in the narthex.

- **ICE CREAM BUCKETS (4 LITRE SIZE)**

We need to generate more 4 litre buckets for deliveries to First United. If you can spare them please drop them off at the Outreach table outside the church hall or in the Outreach storage room any time.

### **Stewardship Seconds**

Look for a way to bring God's love to those who are not filled with joy in this season.

### **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.

### *Christmas Church Office Hours*

The church office will be closed from Thursday, December 25th, to Friday, January 1st. It will reopen on Monday, January 4th.

If there is a pastoral emergency during that time please contact Rev. Wendy Bily at 604-946-1746 or Rev. Doug Graves at 604-948-5470.

# MINUTES FOR MISSION 2009

## *M&S at Home*

“I’d like you to get some tests,” was the unwelcome request of the family doctor. So the husband, to whom this news was delivered, and the wife packed enough for three days and drove hundreds of kilometres from home and church to St. John’s where the tests were available. They were also now thousands of kilometres from their family. The news wasn’t good, and the three days turned into a lengthier stay as they awaited surgery for the husband. It was very hard for their minister to visit and without friends or family the time became very lonely.

One day in the hospital room, a gentleman showed up and introduced himself as Scott Parsons, a United Church minister. After a lengthy conversation and a parting prayer, Scott left with a promise to return. The day prior to the operation, Scott showed up again. There was more reassuring conversation and prayer and the couple were uplifted and comforted by his visit.

After surgery, Scott found his way to the husband’s bedside in the special care unit. During his previous visit, the wife had asked if it would be possible to have communion served. Sure enough, Scott had brought with him all the elements for communion and he even joined in a hymn. These were spirit-filled visits.

Scott is a United Church chaplain whose ministry is possible because of the Mission and Service Fund. And M&S is only possible because of our gifts.

Note: The couple mentioned is Lyn and Brian Sheppard. Brian is back home now and he wrote this Minute for Mission to show how M&S touches individual lives at home and not just overseas. He adds: “Thank you for your generous M&S support. It made a huge difference to Lyn and me.”



*Minutes for Mission 2009 is published by the Financial Stewardship Unit as a resource for the Mission and Service Fund.*



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