

ZION EVANGELICAL UNITED CHURCH

Fourth Sunday Of Advent ~ Love

December 21, 2025

Rev. Dr. Zacharia Mandara

Our Mission Statement

“To be a welcoming, Christ-centered community, empowered to share God's love and to make disciples for Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, teaching, prayer, and acts of caring.”

Prelude **Shelley Jodoin**

Welcome / Announcements **Eunice Getz**

Hymn ***O Little Town Of Bethlehem*** **#250**

Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Candle

The light shines in the darkness.

We come to worship, seeking the love born among us in Christ Jesus.

Shine into our lives and your world this Advent.

Renew our trust in your undying love.

An angel of the Lord declared, “God is with us” this is the greatest gift of love.

Yet even at Christmas, love is often measured by gifts and material things.

But God’s love can come through people—a king named David, a prophet named Nathan, and Mary and Joseph. In a baby, God’s love was made real among us.

Can we believe that God’s love is revealed through people?

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love, a light for our world.

Let us pray together:

Living God, thank you for your deep and abiding love. May we see ourselves and others through your eyes, as we follow your way of love. Come, Lord Jesus.

Youth Time

Choir ***“Love Has Come”***

Prayer for Understanding

God of life and love, we turn to your Word to hear your will and your wisdom for our times. Open our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit so that we might hear what you are saying to the church through Christ, your Love Incarnate.

Scripture Readings

Joan Buder

Isaiah 7: 10-16 (pg 669)

Responsive Reading

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who led Joseph like a flock;
you who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Awaken your might; come and save us.

**Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us,
that we may be saved.**

O LORD God Almighty, how long will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

You have made us a source of contention to our neighbors,
and our enemies mock us.

**Restore us, O God Almighty; make your face shine upon us,
that we may be saved.**

Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

Then we will not turn away from you;

revive us, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O LORD God Almighty;

make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

Scripture *Matthew 1: 18-25 (pg 933-934)*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Message *“Movement”*

Hymn *Hark The Herald Angels Sing* **#277**

Prayer of Dedication for the Offering

God of all the generations, we offer our gifts in gratitude for the inheritance of faithfulness we have received as followers of Jesus. Bless these gifts so that today’s ministries may flourish and provide an inheritance for those who come after us, as you guide us all into a future only you can see. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of Emmanuel, you are Love with us. We pray for nations torn by conflict, for communities burdened by injustice, for families separated by hardship. Let your love break down walls of division, heal wounds of hatred, and guide leaders to walk in the way of peace.

Loving God, you keep calling us to care for neighbours in need and show hospitality to strangers in our midst. Thank you for your persistent love which continues to comfort and challenge us. Open our hearts and our eyes so that we can see how to offer that love to others as we follow Jesus’ example. God of guidance, speak into our lives today.

Christ our Savior, you call your people to embody love. Bless your church in this season of Advent, that we may be a refuge for the weary, a voice for the voiceless, and a light in the shadows.

Strengthen us to serve with compassion, until all know the fullness of your love.

Spirit of Comfort, we lift before you those who are ill, those who grieve, those who feel forgotten. Wrap them in your tender care and remind them that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God of Love, send us forth as bearers of your Advent promise. May our words be gentle, our actions be kind, and our lives reflect the love that came down at Christmas, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now we join with the followers of Jesus in every time and place to pray as he taught us, **Our Father...**

Benediction

Go forth into this Advent week, carrying the love of Christ in your hearts. May the God who is Love surround you, the Christ, who is Emmanuel, walk beside you, and the Spirit who is Comforter dwell within you. As you wait for the coming of the Lord, may love be your light, your song, and your strength. Go in peace, to love and to serve, in the name of the One who is Love made flesh. **Amen.**

Sing— ***“A Christmas Blessing”***

May the Child of Christmas peace and joy impart;
May the Christ of Christmas dwell within your heart. Amen.

Hymn

What Child Is This?

#281

Postlude

Shelley Jodoin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Zion,

As we light the candle of Love on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we are reminded of the greatest expression of love ever given. God gave his only son, not when we deserved it, but while we were still sinners. By sharing, giving to others, reaching out to the lonely and showing kindness, we can pass along that great love that our Father gifted to us. We pray that you will be moved by God's great love at today's Service.

Coffee Time will follow our Worship Service. Thank you to Joan Buder for hosting our time of fellowship today. Please take a moment to check our sign up chart on the office bulletin board for upcoming Sundays.

A Congregational Meeting took place last Sunday, December 7th. The congregation voted in favour of hiring an Interim Minister. A Transition Team will be formed to work with Wesley to begin the process of hiring an Interim Minister. If you are interested, please contact Eunice. Sunday, January 25, 2026 will be Rev. Mandara's last Service with us here at Zion and Wesley.

The Food Bank Collection Box is set up at the parking lot doors. Please remember to help share blessings this season. There is also a collection tin on the table at the back of the sanctuary if you chose to give a monetary donation rather than grocery items. Thank you so much for the donations that have already been given.

New Sign Funds Raised To Date--\$3708.95

Thank you so much for all the support to this effort. Simply write, "New Sign" on your offering envelope if you would like to contribute to the cost of our new sign.

Christmas Craft Sale items are on display and available to purchase in our Fellowship Hall for one more Sunday. To date we have raised \$465. This money will be deposited into our Outreach Account.

The Coldest Night of the Year is Canada's National Walk for Homelessness. Zion has been invited to join Wesley and Calvin to form a walking team in February. Please pick up an information sheet on the table by the office if you are interested in joining this walk.

Volunteers for Snow Removal are needed. Shoveling or use of the snowblower may be required. This would involve clearing the walkway at the front of the building, including the door by the mailbox, the stairs to the lower parking lot, or the parking lot door entrance, before our Sunday Worship time. We very much appreciate if you have already come forward and offered your help.

A Christmas Eve Service will be held at Zion on Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00. Please invite your family and friends to join us on this special evening. We have invited a guest musician to play for us. The choir will sing and together we will enjoy singing some of our favourite Christmas Carols.

Year End Committee Reports need to be submitted to the office by Christmas to prepare for the completion of our Annual Report Book.

Zion's Pastoral Care Team is seeking people who would be interested in helping with the Pastoral Care of Zion. If you would like more information, please speak to Armelda Maves.

Keep in your prayers those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, those experiencing or recovering from illness and surgeries and those going through challenging and difficult times. We especially ask that you remember in prayer, Rev. Dave Bauman & Maureen, Myrtle Gutz, Wayne Lemke, Erna Maves, Evelyn Maves, Sandra Maves, Rev. Mandara, Doreen Schroeder and Martin Verkruisen.

December Services

Christmas Eve—4:00—December 24th at Zion

***Christmas Carols, Scripture Readings,
Special Music—Miranda Lockley—Violinist,
Zion Choir**

December 28th—11:00—Joint Service at Zion

***Lay Participation, Message by Bailey Jodoin,
Special Music, Light Lunch served by Zion**

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FACEBOOK

Zion Evangelical United Church Pembroke

