

**Balzac Pastoral Charge  
of the United Church of Canada  
Sunday December 17, 2023  
Advent 3 & 4  
Minister: Kelly Grittner**

**Prelude:**

*How Far Is It To Bethlehem*

*arr M. Hayes*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgement**

“As we gather together, let us pause to remember that we live, work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the nations of Treaty 7. As Christ’s people, may we be people of love, of truth, and of reconciliation. May we live with respect on this land, and in peace and friendship with its people.”

**Prayer for the Journey**

In the midst of the bustle, we can lose sight of the quiet star that calls to us.

**Help us see the promise of this season.**

In the midst of the tasks, we can lose our way to the simple town called Bethlehem, and the story of the season.

**Help us journey to the source of this season.**

In the midst of the rush, we can lose our compassion for those who ask if there is any room in our hearts.

**Help us share the love of this season.**

**Lighting the Advent Candle**

Again we light a candle for hope - hope for ourselves,  
hope for our beloved world. *(light first candle)*

**Again we light a candle for peace - peace in  
our hearts and peace on earth** *(light second candle)*

Today we light a candle for joy - joy to the world,  
joy alive in the depths of our being *(light third candle)*

**This Sunday we light the candle of love,  
sharing a vision of our world thriving in a  
living tapestry of living relationships.** *(light fourth candle)*

**Advent Prayer**

God of promise, we light these four  
candles and reflect on how from age to age  
the choice of love is what we all hope for most.  
Amen

**Candle Hymn**

*A Candle is Burning*

VU 6

**Christmas Cantata – The Glory of Christmas**

arr. Lloyd Larson

With Balzac United Church Choir & Friends

*The Glory of Christmas!*

Congregation: Angels We have Heard on High

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

*Prepare the Way of the Lord!*

*Child of Promise, Child of Love*

Solo: Michelle Kotelko

*Jesus Is Born Tonight!*

Soloists: Hannah and Zoe Walkes  
Congregation: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

*Christ Is Born This Holy Night*

*Guide Us To the Perfect Light*

*The Glory of Christmas!*

Congregation: O Come, All Ye Faithful

### **Commissioning**

Now may the peace and promises of our God go with you  
and may you know the fullness of God's favour  
resting upon each of you as you leave this place.  
For you see, God is turning the world upside down;  
the plans of the self-important will come to an end  
and the way of vulnerability will lead to life.  
Go and give birth to the justice and love  
which has been planted within you  
by the Spirit of God. Amen

### **Postlude:**

*The Holly and the Ivy*

*arr. R. Schultz*

### **Announcements:**

- **Christmas Cantata Special Music Service:** Please mark your calendars for tomorrow December 17th, "The Glory of Christmas" Cantata by Lloyd Larson, put on by our lovely BUC Choir, Lee Dowan, and Dr. Alex Shawn will be held that day. Enjoy an earful of Christmas classics and melodies of the joyous season.
- **For announcement Questions or addition, here is the contact information - [balzacunitedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:balzacunitedchurch@gmail.com).**  
PHONE: 4032265844
- **For any general information on the Church please see the BUC Website Linked here:**  
<https://balzacunitedchurch.com/>
- **Minister Kelly's phone number if needed: # 403 219 3535**
- **Greeting cards sent out from BUC:** A general reminder that if you know someone that needs a card sent out from the church because of celebration, concern or illness, to please let Joyce Covey know as soon as you can. Our church community is always connected and we have love and light filled to the top at our church, so please help us stay connected.



### **First Third Ministry Corner**

#### **Everything for our kids, youth & young adults**

The new email address for all Sunday school, youth and young adult programming for Balzac United Church is [BUCfirstthirdministry@gmail.com](mailto:BUCfirstthirdministry@gmail.com). Please send all Sunday school and youth group correspondence to me through this new address. I am also available to chat on my cell number (587)229-3878.

Our programs can't run without the tremendous efforts of volunteers. We are currently in need of volunteers to help with the following:

- nursery volunteers, either for one Sunday or on a rotational basis

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are able to help support this vital ministry.

**Upcoming Events for First Third Ministry**

**December 17:** Regular Sunday school

**December 24:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent; There will be no Sunday morning service. For the 5 pm Christmas Eve Service we will have some activities for the kids to do in their seats. There is no Sunday school this day.

**December 31:** We will have a “Getting Ready for the New Year Party” during Sunday school. More details to come.