

**Prelude**

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Birthdays / Special Occasions**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Quiet Preparation for Worship**

**Introit:** "Let Us Build a House" MV #1 v. 1

**Call to Worship:**

Light shines in shadowed places.

**Hope abounds where once there was fear.**

God's Chosen One is born into our hearts.

**We honour Jesus with gifts of devotion, love, and commitment.**

We worship with gladdened hearts.

*Laura Turnbull, Penticton, B.C. The Gathering A/C/E 2020 pg.41*

**Hymn:** "Unto Us a Boy is Born"

VU #54

**Prayer of Approach:**

**God of the Ages; you called wise ones  
to travel from far away to find Jesus.**

**You call us to journey into the unknown.**

**We know that you go with us even if the steps we take are  
new and sometimes uncertain and unfamiliar.**

**Assure us, in this time of worship, that you do go with us.**

**Grant us the courage to open our lives to the new  
opportunities that lie ahead. Amen.**

*Beth W Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask The Gathering A/C/E 2020 pg.41*

With Jesus, we share in the ancient prayer...

**Psalm 147**

VU #868

**Hymn:** "Good Christian Men Rejoice"

VU #35

### **Prayer of Confession**

#### **Promise of Assurance**

In Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near. Christ came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; through Christ, you have access in one Spirit to God. We are a forgiven and beloved people. **Thanks be to God!**

*Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, Ont. The Gathering A/C/E 2020 pg.41*

### **Presentation of Our Gifts**

#### **Invitation to Offering:**

What shall I return to the Lord for all this bounty to me?  
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people.  
*Psalm 116. 12,14*

**Offertory:** " In the Bleak Midwinter"

VU #55 v. 4

#### **Presentation of Our Offering:**

O God, you birth abundant life!  
We thank you for the birth of Jesus.  
In response to your great labour of love, we offer our gifts.  
As we open ourselves to you, may your love be born in us,  
today and every day. **Amen.**

### **Listening for the Word**

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

John 1: 1-18

### **Anthem**

### **Sermon**

### **Prayers of the People:**

(# 400 VU Lord Listen to Your Children Praying)

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

**Hymn:** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

VU #48

**Commissioning/Benediction:**

We are called to go into the world to love and serve our God and all others in our thoughts, words and actions. May we bless others with the sure and certain hope that was born in Emmanuel, God with-us.

*Seasons of the Spirit Seasons FUSION Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2020/21 page 93 adapted)*

**Choral Amen**