



Knox Presbyterian Church

20 Quebec Street
Guelph, ON N1H 2T4
Telephone: (519) 821-0141

E-mail: office@knoxguelph.ca
Web page: www.knoxguelph.ca

Rev. Johan Olivier
Minister

Anne Eaton
Pastoral Assistant

Chris Fischer
Director of Music Ministries

Wilma Welsh
Mission Coordinator

Jessie Bush
Session Clerk

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Rev. Dr. Arnold Bethune
Nancy Dickieson
Kathy Stirling
Stephen Leaders

*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

November 29, 2009

The Four Candles, *Author Unknown*

The Four Candles burned slowly.
Their Ambiance was so soft you
could hear them speak...

The first candle said, "I Am Peace, but these days, nobody
wants to keep me lit." Then Peace's flame slowly
diminishes and goes out completely.

The second candle says, "I Am Faith, but these days, I am
no longer indispensable." Then Faith's flame slowly
diminishes and goes out completely.

Sadly the third candle spoke, "I Am Love and I haven't the
strength to stay lit any longer."
"People put me aside and don't understand my
importance. They even forget to love those who are
nearest to them." And waiting no longer, Love goes out
completely.

Suddenly...A child enters the room and sees the three
candles no longer burning. The child begins to cry, "Why
are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit until the
end."

Then the Fourth Candle spoke gently to the little boy,
"Don't be afraid, for I Am Hope, and while I still burn, we
can re-light the other candles."

With Shining eyes the child took the Candle of Hope and
lit the other three candles.

Never let the Flame of Hope go out of your life.
With Hope, no matter how bad things look and
are...Peace, Faith and Love can Shine Brightly in our lives.

Dear Friends,

This is the first Sunday of Advent, the season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of the Christ child. For those lighting the candles of an advent wreath, the first candle is often referred to as the candle of hope. As the above poem suggests all candle flames are flickering and in danger of extinction. Sometimes this season can be a most difficult one if sad memories flood in to overcome the joy of family and even the joy of life itself. As shut-ins some of those who read these words may be among those who find the season difficult. It was in a time of great fear and difficulty for Mary and Joseph that Jesus was born so long ago and so far away. His birth is hope.

My prayer for each of you is in the words of the poem above. "Don't be afraid, for I Am Hope, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles."

Let's keep each other in prayerfulness throughout this season that the candles of Peace, Faith, and Love may be relit, and may shine brightly in every heart and every home this Christmas.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin