

# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge

November 27, 2022

Advent 1

## PRELUDE

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Shirley Godfree

## WELCOME

### **GATHERING HYMN: VU # 1 "O Come, O Come Emanuel" (vs. 1 & refrain)**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE:** *Lesley & Amelia Jackson*

Reader: "Come, let us go up to the mountain, to the house of God, so that we can be taught God's way and go on God's path." What do you hope for in the new world?

**All:** **We hope for a future that is more amazing than anything we could ever imagine. We hope for the healing of creation. We hope for good mental health and wellness. We hope for a world where everyone seeks the good.**

Reader: Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world, where we can dare to hope boldly. May it be so.

**All:** **Amen.**

*(First Advent blue candle is lit.)*

## GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

### **ACKNOWLEDGING THE TERRITORY**

Today we gather on the lands of the Treaty 7 territory. We honor the Anishinabek, the Haudenosaunee, the Ojibwe, the Chippewa and other Indigenous caretakers of these lands and waters, the elders who lived here before, the Indigenous today, and the generations to come.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"

**All: We are standing in God's presence, alert and ready to receive God's word.**

One: The night is passing. The day of salvation is near.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus come! Amen.**

### **OPENING HYMN VU # 2 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"**

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

3. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

**OPENING PRAYER**

One: O Holy God, maker of every thought and thing, open our hearts this day, that we may know your presence in this time and place.

**All: Restore us now, so we may see the special gift and calling that you have for each of us.**

One: Masterful potter of life, mold us into the vessels you would have us be.

**All: Help us be ready for your promised return, when you will be among us and within us with new, creative, healing energy. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

**O Lord God, as we begin to prepare our hearts to receive the One whom you are sending, forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing you in our midst, for all the times we have doubted your presence, and for all the times we have failed to help others find their way. Forgive us, in the name of Jesus, the One who is coming. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S FOCUS:**

Prayer

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Children’s Hymn: VU # 7 “Hope is a Star” (vs 1 & refrain)**

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain: When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURES: Epistle: Romans 15:4-13**  
**Reader: God’s Holy Word**  
**All: Thanks be to God**

**MESSAGE: “Hope”**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**OFFERTORY HYMN: VU # 540 “Grant Us, God, the Grace”**

Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,  
That ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison)

Lord of the promised hope, we have come bringing our offerings to you. You are the giver of all good gifts. Receive our gifts today. We pray that as we experience your hope, we might share it with all whom we meet and live lives pleasing to you. Guide us we pray. Amen.

## PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE FOR REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL FAITH

### Statement

The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by the Holy Spirit. We gather to celebrate God's presence, to discern God's truth, and to follow the way of Jesus. By our baptism we are made members of Christ's church. We exercise this membership in the denomination to which we belong, which for us is The United Church of Canada, and within the context of a local community of faith.

### Background information

Minister: We are now to officially welcome into our congregation one who has been with us for many years

Chair of Council:

On behalf of the congregation of St Paul's United Church, I present William Collins who seeks to reaffirm publicly proclaim his faith in his baptism:

Minister: Do you believe in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

**Bill: I do, by the grace of God.**

Minister: Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

**Bill: I will, God being my helper.**

Minister: Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this congregation to share in the life, work, and ministry of Jesus Christ?

**Bill: I will, God being my helper.**

### **Congregational Commitment**

Minister: Let us pledge to Bill our continued support and care.

**All: We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.**

### Affirmation of Faith

#### The New Creed (in unison)

**We are not alone,  
We live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
To reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks, be to God.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water**

Minister: Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation. By water, comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized. May your Spirit be upon us as we remember and reflect on our own baptism. May this water being poured be a sign for our renewed life in Christ in whose name we pray.

**All: Amen.**

### **The Act of Renewal of Baptismal Faith**

Minister: Bill, "Remember your baptism and be thankful."

### **Prayer for the Candidate**

Minister: Bill, may the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Bill, watch over him and guide him as he continues to grow in faith.

**All: Amen.**

Minister: In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

### **COMMUNION HYMN: VU # 456 Now to Your Table Spread**

1. Now to your table spread we come, each one in faith  
that you alone provide the words of life or death:  
in wine and bread, in promised food we find your loving heart, O God.
2. Hands of the world stretch out your mystery to touch  
in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,  
to sing in joy, to cry in grief, to know your meaning for our life.

3. Here is our common wealth in sharing what is good, as though all humankind around one table stood, this bread to break, this wine to taste: one people in the name of Christ.

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

God be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Let us gather around God's table to celebrate God's love for us.

**Who is invited to God's Table?**

All are invited; the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the lowest and the least; sinners and saints together in communion. Come find your place here where there are no strangers or foreigners, only brothers and sisters in the sight of God.

**Why do we give thanks at this table?**

We give thanks because Jesus showed us the way, we give thanks because Jesus is the Way. Jesus was a gift from God for the world. He was called Immanuel, "God with us". He came to save us from our sins. Jesus lived a life of thankfulness and gave his life as a sacrifice for many. We give thanks that he is our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

**Why do we eat and drink at this table?**

We eat because on the night before Jesus died, he ate with his friends. He gave them bread and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." At that same meal he took a cup of wine and said, "Drink this cup. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

**What do we remember at this table?**

We remember Jesus' birth and his presence as God with us. We remember Jesus' life and his love. We remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. We remember the resurrection and the promise of life. We remember that we are waiting in hope to see Jesus again.

Let us pray:

God of grace, thank you for this bread and wine, and for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. God of hope, fill us with your Spirit today that we might have the wisdom to understand the mystery of this Table, and the depth and height and breadth and length of your love for us. Through this meal, strengthen us to be followers of Jesus, a community of peace in a broken world. We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## **SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)**

**Jesus, you truly are Immanuel "God with us". In this season of hope, may the meal we've shared together nourish us to be your body in the world, your kingdom come, your will done on earth as it is in heaven. With the angels in heaven, we join in singing your praises, Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

**IN JESUS' NAME WE GO TO SERVE**

**Closing Hymn: VU# 507 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"**

1. Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,  
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,  
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.
  
2. God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race  
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife,  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.
  
3. Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,  
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,  
A world that was created for a harmony of peace.
  
4. May we in service to our God act out the living Word,  
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord  
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We welcome all who join us for in-person worship today and online.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please join us for a social time after the worship service for coffee, (regular and decaf) as well as tea, juice and cookies will be served.  
The M&P committee are hosting this month.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

In our thoughts and prayers this week Marie Barker, Bill Drew, Jim Donaldson, Kaytlyn McKibbon and others who have been experiencing healing.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes **TODAY!** To **Doug Franklin** who is celebrating his 87<sup>th</sup> and tomorrow, Nov. 28 Clare Thompson celebrates his birthday.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The poinsettia this morning is given by John & Carol Morling in loving memory of their parents Charlie and Merle Sumner and Charlie and Gwen Morling.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Look out for updates on Adopt-A-Family we are participating again.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Our Advent Reading & Candle lighting this year will be done by Grandma's and granddaughters. Thank you to all who will participate.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Messy Church** – December 3 from 10-12 noon  
**"It's a Wonkey Donkey Christmas!"**

Families welcome, come and enjoy: crafts, music & stories and a meal to follow.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~



"Last date for handing in your "full" piggy banks is December 11, 2022. This money will be used for Community Kitchen. Thank you from the Sunday School"

Thank you. Karen

~~~~~

The Cantata "Good News from Home" will be performed on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> as part of the service. Participants are St. Paul's choir members and friends.

~~~~~



**Blue Christmas worship – December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m.**

Please join us to if you have lost a loved one. This time of year in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. We will offer special recognition of the struggles that many people face during this season. a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God.



~~~~~

**SAVE the DATE**

**Thelma Hadwen** will be 90 on March 3, 2023. *SAVE the DATE of Mach 5* (after church in the Friendship Room) for a time to share your good wishes with Thelma.

More details later.



If you would like to volunteer for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle, please call 519-842-3231 ext.103 to register.

~~~~~

The Senior Centre choir will perform on November 29.

There will be a matinee and an evening presentation.

Call 519-688-2520 to order tickets.

~~~~~

**Christmas Choir Showcases**

Come and enjoy Christmas songs and beautiful harmonies.

November 29 Matinee 1-3p.m. Evening 7-9p.m.

Tickets \$10 at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre, 45 Hardy Ave. Call 519-688-2520 for enquiries



|              |                                                                         |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DID YOU KNOW | ...that Communion is offered at the Nursing Homes and Retirement homes? |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|

LicenSing #2401; CCLI: #239572