



Advent 1 Yr C – 1st December 2024
Communion

Greeter: Wendy

Leader: Rev Carolyn Thornley

Meditation Song: O come, O come the time is near
(please remain seated)

O come, O come the time is near;
we yearn to know your presence here.
Creation stirs: the time is full.
Be born to us, Emmanuel.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us,
a child shall be the sign.

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
love stir within the womb of night
and death's own shadows put to flight:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us,
a child shall be the sign.

Welcome:

Greeting:

As we prepare this Advent to enter the mystery of Christmas:
May the light of Christ be with you.

And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

As we begin our service, let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.

Advent Candle: *The first Advent Candle is lit for Hope*

We light this candle of HOPE
to recall the prophetic voices
which announced the Prince of Peace,
which foretold the age of gold,
which called for justice
and announced the song of joy.

May the light overcome the darkness.

Acknowledgement of Country:

This is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here.

We acknowledge and give thanks for the Gadigal and Wangal people who have walked upon and cared for this land for time beyond measure.

We commit to walking with and learning from the elders of this land, and to the ongoing journey of justice and reconciliation.

Call to Worship:

Holy God, in this quiet season, the season of waiting,

We rest in the shelter of your love.

In this season of waiting, we seek your light to guide us.

We trust in the light of your promise.

In this season of solitude, when we listen for the rhythm of your breath.

We find hope in the signs of your presence.

In this season, it is a time to make room and to make ready.

For we shall join in the angel's chorus.

Peace on earth, goodwill to all people.

We cry out for peace on earth, goodwill to all.

Opening Prayer:

God of all time

In our watching and our waiting

Come Lord Jesus.

In our hopes and in our fears

Come Lord Jesus.

In our homes and in our world

Come Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus.

Bless us and surprise us as we look forward to the day of your birth.

Amen

Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him (TIS 477)

1 Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

2 Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

3 Jesus calls us to each other,
Found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and language
Such are barriers he derides.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;

join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

Prayer of confession:

Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to live through Advent's days.
But watch what God does during this time.
God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find new paths;
God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do,
So, we might be forgiven and graced with new life.
Let us approach the One who waits - for us!

In this knowledge, let us pray:

God of Stable, stars and surprises,
of light and hope and new life:
open our eyes and hearts to your presence in the world;
forgive our obsession with property and possessions;
forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision;
forgive us when we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
Open us to your grace,
that we might hear again the song of the angels,
and respond with your song in our hearts, and in our lives.

Amen

Words of assurance:

Love has come into the world,
a free gift of grace for ordinary people,
a nurturing of hope,
and a promise of new things!

Sung response: Prayer for peace (David Haas)

Hope before us
Hope behind us
Hope under our feet
Hope within us
Hope over us
Let all around us be hope

Peace:

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you.

Moment for the young at heart: Tonia

Bible Readings: Marie

Introduction to Hebrew Bible reading:

In Advent, the church proclaims an alternative reality that grows out of confidence in God's righteousness. The promise of Advent is that God is our righteousness and that all things will be made new.

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the

whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Hear the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Carolyn Thornley

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Chris W

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

Communion Hymn: When at this table – Shirley Murray (tune TIS 587)

1. When at this table I receive a blessing,
The broken bread, the wine of life for me,
Then let me share the peace with you my neighbour,
And let the Spirit set our spirits free.
2. If at this table I have need of healing,
Unbidden grief, relationship gone wrong,
Then let me know the hands of God enfolding,
And let lament become believing song.

3. If at this table I forget the hungry,
The dispossessed and warfare's spreading stain,
Then let this bread become the bread of judgement,
This wine the sharp awareness of that pain.
4. If at this table I make dedication
To give my life in serving what is good,
Then let my centre be where God invites me,
And show the words of Jesus understood.
5. What faith I have, I bring to join this table,
What hope I hold, in Christ is taught and true,
With brothers, sisters, I will share the blessing,
The feast where God is making all things new.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper - Advent liturgy: Rev Carolyn

As we come to this table,
we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ,
a banquet prepared for everyone.
All who seek to be nourished and sustained
in the journey of faith,
all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are
welcome here.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, Breath of peace,

Giver of all life,

Source of love that knows no boundaries.

Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;

throughout the ages, your song of liberation has impregnated us with your
hope for a world where:

those considered last and least are first and most;

violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love; and,

all siblings work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth,
and send prophets to awaken us
to your approaching Advent among us.

We thank you for those who, like Mary,
have the strength and courage
to give birth to your love in the world;
for those who, like the shepherds,
dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem;
for those who, like the wise ones,
actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us
in womb and tomb,
in cradle and cross,
in tenderness and compassion.
We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,
“O come, Emmanuel.”

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us,
we proclaim your goodness.

“O come, Emmanuel.”

At this time, we also remember
all with whom you would have us share your feast.
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...
all who are ill or alone...
all who are close to our hearts...
all our sisters who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...
all whose lives have been blighted by violence, racism, or poverty...
for all whom the world counts as last and least.

We pray for the church and its many ministries,
for nations as they strive for peace and justice,
for an end to violence against women.

God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding,
this wine the medium of our transformation,
this table the foundation of our renewal,
and this community the place of our rebirth. Amen.

At this time, we remember Jesus,
Who on the night before he died,
took a loaf of bread,
gave you thanks, broke it, and said,
“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”
Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,
“This is the new covenant; remember me.”

Gracious God, Breath of peace,
Source of love,
we pray for your Spirit.

Make us, while many, one.

Make us, though broken, whole.

Make us, despite death, alive.

And so we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ,

the Bread of life.

The lifeblood of Christ,

the cup of blessing.

Let us eat and drink together
for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world.

Communion is served

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, God,

for breaking into our world

and pouring into our lives and our experiences.

We thank you, God,

for this meal of thanksgiving

and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells.

Amen.

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope.

And we give in hope.

Hope for your coming reign;

Hope because of your presence with us now.

Receive our gifts,

And use them for your work of healing and hope in our world.

Amen.

Children's time:**Song: Give me oil in my lamp**

1. Give me oil in my lamp,
keep me burning.
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.
Keep me burning till the break of day.

Chorus:

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings.
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King.

2. Give me joy in my heart,
keep me praising.
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.
Keep me praising till the break of day.

Chorus:

3. Give me peace in my heart,
keep me resting.
Give me peace in my heart I pray.
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.
Keep me resting till the break of day.

Chorus:

4. Give me love in my heart,
keep me serving.
Give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.

Keep me serving till the break of day.
Chorus:

Benediction & Blessing:

Hold your light out to the world.
Follow, where the Spirit of Hope leads you.
Listen, as the Child of Peace cries for you.
Rejoice, as the Love of God embraces you.

And may Almighty God bless you;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
be upon you and remain forever within you.

3-fold-amen

Pastoral Prayers: Christo

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Advent Candle liturgy: Shine on Star of Bethlehem – Christian Aid

Call to worship: adapted Shine on Star of Bethlehem – Christian Aid

Prayer of confession: adapted G. Nodwell - Shine on Star of Bethlehem – Christian Aid

Assurance: adapted Dorothy McRae-McMahon – Prayers for Life's Particular Moments

Communion Liturgy: Alydia Smith, Program Coordinator, Worship, Music, and Spirituality, General Council Office, United Church of Canada.

Blessing: adapted Shine on Star of Bethlehem – Christian Aid