

# **ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**



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**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew's**

**Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan**

**November 28, 2021**

**Advent 2, Peace**

# WE GATHER

## **Welcome -**

We have been seeking signs of God's presence all of our lives. In this service may our eyes, ears and hearts be open to receive some word of hope and peace as we anticipate the coming of the One whom God is sending.

## **Announcements**

### **Acknowledging Our Kinship**

As we gather in this time of expectant waiting, we begin by acknowledging the gifts we have already received and thanking Creator God, from whom all blessings flow, for this land on which we live and worship. We acknowledge and give thanks to those who were stewards of the land before our ancestors came and we give thanks to them for the blessing of the sharing of this land. With open hearts we commit ourselves to living into our Advent Peace with love and respect with all our relations.

### **Advent Candle Lighting - *Joseph Family***

**Reader:** When conflict seems never-ending, relationships rocky,  
When we want to deny and pretend,  
The Holy invites us to make space for truth-telling and we find Peace

### **(Peace candle is lit)**

**Reader:** Where in the world do we find Peace these days?

## **Gathering Hymn (Tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)**

O come and bring your peace upon the earth  
that even now still longs for its rebirth.

We seek to live and move in your ways

Guide us to peace and justice all our days

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to us and all things shall be well

## **Call To Worship**

This is a time of great preparation.

What have you come expecting today?

**We have come to hear the words  
of God's messengers.**

Listening to God's messengers is often difficult. Are you prepared to  
hear hard truths?

**We have come to hear God's truth,  
and to receive it as good news.**

God's word of confrontation is always followed by a word of grace.

**Let us hear those words with gladness  
as we worship together.**

## **Young at Heart Time - White Gift**

**Hymn - Hope is a Star - 7 VU**

## **Prayer of Confession**

**You call us to walk in your ways, O God,  
but we are reluctant to follow—**

**our hearts are fearful, our bodies are weak,  
we are uncertain and afraid.**

**Give us courage to step out.**

**Help us accept your healing love.**

**Lead us in paths of justice, and teach us to sing your praises.**

**Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

In God's love and mercy, we are given each new day for the healing of the world.

In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Luke 3: 1-6**

**Meditation - *THE PATH***

**Hymn - Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! - 35 VU**

## **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Invitation to Offering**

Our God has done wondrous things, and has done them for us. Let us respond to God's acts of love and wonder by offering our whole selves, that God's promises might be fulfilled through us.

**Offering Hymn - In the Bleak Mid-winter - 55 VU - Verse 4**

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

### **Offering Prayer**

We thank you, Holy One, for all your good gifts, especially the gifts of prophecy, promise, and calls for preparation.

As a thankful response to these gifts, we offer our belief, our commitments, and our money, that we may hasten the time when no one will hurt or destroy on all God's holy mountain.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern -**

Gracious Lord, we dream of a world free of poverty and oppression, and we yearn for a world free of vengeance and violence. And we pray for your peace.

When our hearts ache for the victims of war and oppression, help us to remember that you healed people simply by touching them..., and give us faith in our ability to comfort and heal bodies and minds and spirits that have been broken by violence.

When the injustice of this world seems too much for us to handle, help us to remember that you fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish..., and give us hope that what we have to offer will turn out to be enough, too.

When fear of the power and opinions of others tempts us not to speak up for the least among us, help us to remember that you dared to turn over the tables of money changers..., and give us the courage to risk following you without counting the cost.

When we feel ourselves fill with anger at those who are violent and oppressive, help us remember that you prayed for those who killed you..., and give us compassion for our enemies, too.

When we tell ourselves that we have given all we can to bring peace to this world, help us to remember your sacrifice... , and give us the miracle of losing a little more of ourselves in serving you and our neighbors.

Walk with us, Lord, as we answer your call to be peacemakers. Increase our compassion, our generosity and our hospitality for the least of your children. Give us the courage, the patience, the serenity, the self-honesty and the gentleness of spirit that are needed in a world filled with turmoil and terror. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **Final Hymn - Joy to the World**

### **Commissioning and Benediction -**

You are God's messenger for this time.

Go out to prepare the way of God in the world. Make a new beginning, by forgiving those who have wronged you.

Go in the power of God's forgiving and redeeming love, bringing forgiveness and redemption to your homes, neighbourhoods, and cities. Go in the peace of God. Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



In this season of giving we are bringing back some of the Offertory liturgy, however, we will still not be passing the offering plate. All gifts, to all ministries are a blessing and there are many ways to contribute including: placing your gift in the plate before the service, mailing in or dropping off your gift to 60 West Ave., St. Thomas or speak to the office about setting up Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). Thanks in advance for your continued support of this important ministries.



**3 more weeks week Bible Study-The Good News of Joy to the world runs every Wednesday until December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please let Rev.Cheryl or the Office know if you want to participate-starts at 11am.**



**Thank you to Carm (JoAnn Day)and Marg Hutchison for ushering the last 2 weeks. We are still in need of ushers for the month of December. Please let Cheryl know if you can help out.**



Please check the hall for a Coffee sign up list, to help with Fellowship time after Sunday Service.



Job Opportunity: Shelter Custodian- Part Time at The Inn (Commencing December 2021). The Inn is seeking applicants who are interested in a part-time custodian role commencing Mid-December 2021 and consisting of approximately 15 hours weekly (5 hours x 3 days per week-rotating weekends). This is a permanent part-time role paying living wage. Interested applicants please send your resume to [jobs@innelgin.ca](mailto:jobs@innelgin.ca) before December 10, 2021.



Board Members Needed:

Fresh Start Support Services is accepting applications to join our Board of Directors and provide oversight in policy development, human resources, legal matters and finances. Board member terms start in January and are two years.If you are interested, please email Karen at [director@fsms.ca](mailto:director@fsms.ca) or go to [www.fsms.ca](http://www.fsms.ca) for more information.



It's that time again and back to routine  
We're asking you kindly and won't be mean  
For your Committee or groups annual report  
It'd be divine if you kept it short.  
You can email it or submit to Sue  
Just hand it in, she knows what to do.  
So get your report to Sue, do it today!!  
I thank you so much, what else can I say?