

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 1- Hope

WE GATHER

Welcome - Good morning and welcome to this First Sunday of Advent as we come together this day, we pray that God will open our ears to hear, open our eyes to see, and open our hearts to love, that we may come to know God's ways and grow in love for one another, and for all creation, as we prepare for the coming of the one true source of our salvation. Amen.

Announcements

One: For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on their traditional territory and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

All: **Many of us have come from other places, arriving from distant shores, our families arriving years ago or some of us more recently. When settlers came, they were met by others who were already here, already knew these lands, already lived rich and full lives based on ancient and proud cultures.**

One: As we acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial, and their continued claims to the land, help us to become neighbours that we might live together in better ways.

All: **For we are all kin in Christ, "All My Relations," with each other and this earth, its waters, air, animals, and plants. Our Kinship**

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader: When the world seems scary
When we try to escape and hide

The Holy invites us to confront fear
And we find Hope

(Hope candle is lit)

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

Gathering Hymn - To the Tune - O Come, O Come Emmanuel
O come and be the hope in all our lives
Though chaos and confusion still survive
We know the path of hate all too well We need our God with us,
Emmanuel!
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us and all things shall
be well.

Call To Worship

The day foretold is coming.

**When our tired eyes will behold a fire, a blazing star in the
eastern sky!**

The one foretold is coming.

Whose light will shine through the deepest gloom.

The day is at hand!

Your redemption is drawing near!

Young at Heart Time - Light in the Night

Scripture Reading - John 1:1–6 (7–14)

Hymn - Will You Come and See the Light VU96

**Prayer - Bless these lights, as we await the Light of Life, Holy
One.**

May your light shine hope into

our lives and in your world
and remind us of your living presence in all things.

Prayer of Confession

Loving Creator, you call us to hope in your salvation,
and rejoice in your promise of the birth that is to come,
but we are afraid.

You invite us into a world where justice and righteousness
prevail,
but we turn away in fear.

We long for an easy path into your promised world,
but you warn us that there is no easy way.

Birth new life within us, Holy Midwife,
that we may abide in hope, and in your perfect love—the love
that casts out fear.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Wreath of Welcome

Isaiah 35:1–10

Hymn - *Joy to the World*" (VU 59).

Prayer

With these garlands, and in our hearts and lives, we prepare the way
for the Lord!

**Open wide the doors of God's house,
go out into the highways and byways
to welcome all and make neighbours of those we meet!**

Bough of Love

John 13:34–35

Hymn - *“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”* (VU 48).

Prayer

With these boughs we remember the love of God,
revealed in Jesus 'self-giving, becoming the Christ for us,
that love might heal God's people and world.

Open our hearts, that we might receive him still.

Open our hands, that we might share his loving example.

Open our lives, that we might be transformed in love.

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

Offering Prayer

Giver of all good things,

as we offer these gifts to you,

open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given

and all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves:

our love, our companionship, and our material resources,

wherever they are needed. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern -

In the midst of our busy lives and preparations, O God,

you come to us in the child of promise and surprising joy.

With hope, we await the coming of your kingdom,

when your love will fill the world.

We thank you for the beauty of winter,

of gentle snow cloaking trees and land with life-giving moisture.

We wonder at the infinite glory of your creation
and know you by the works of your hand.

We thank you for all the gifts we enjoy
as part of our holiday preparations,
especially the company and love of family and friends.

We thank you for the love and joy
that fill our hearts at this time of year.
May we also be filled with your spirit, compassion, and vision,
that your loving kindness will be known through all
our thoughts, words, and actions.

We remember those for whom this season will be difficult, even painful:
those who grieve lost loved ones,
relationships that have been broken,
health issues that fracture peace,
those without enough to eat or a safe place to live.

Help us to be present to those who feel alone,
to share with those in need,
to offer our time and attention to those who are anxious,
to seek the strengthening of the lives and communities around us.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus, the One who comes, who taught us to
pray, saying...

The Lord's Prayer

Final Hymn - Prepare the Way (Isaiah 40),” VU p. 882

Commissioning and Benediction -

Go into the world awake to the signs of God's invitations to new life.
Know that the reign of Christ draws nearer with each right action we
choose.

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).



5 week Bible Study-The Good News of Joy to the world has started and runs every Wednesday until December 22nd. Please let Rev.Cheryl or the Office know if you want to participate-11am every Wednesday



Thank you to Wilf and Betty Bradley for ushering the last 2 weeks. Carm and Marg Hutchison will be ushering for the next 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.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Advent Word Search

W	C	H	R	V	Z	W	C	I	W	I	R	K	R	X	V	G	K
V	H	O	L	Y	I	R	O	A	M	P	E	A	C	E	E	S	R
Q	G	P	G	L	B	N	P	R	N	M	W	U	J	J	E	D	E
S	K	E	A	M	E	P	M	C	S	D	A	O	B	R	L	E	J
H	K	A	D	A	T	G	E	Z	F	H	L	N	Q	Q	O	C	O
F	M	M	V	R	H	H	S	Y	R	M	I	E	U	O	V	O	I
K	Z	J	E	Y	L	Q	S	D	M	D	B	P	S	E	E	R	C
I	W	E	N	L	E	F	I	A	N	G	E	L	M	A	L	A	E
W	L	S	T	R	H	T	A	U	W	R	E	A	T	H	B	T	Z
M	O	U	Y	K	E	F	H	S	A	V	I	O	R	P	F	E	W
U	M	S	Y	Y	M	F	D	B	Y	Y	U	F	V	B	B	L	N
A	L	X	B	L	N	P	A	J	O	S	E	P	H	N	X	C	V

Peace	Advent	Decorate	
Hope	Savior	Worship	
Candles	Angel	Love	
Jesus	Messiah	Holy	
Mary	Bethlehem	Immanuel	
Joseph	Wreath	Rejoice	