

Welcome
to Aurora United Church
...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Advent 1 (Hope)

November 28, 2021

In Advent, we wait for you: God the maker, Jesus the storyteller, Holy Spirit of life.

In Advent we cry to you: God of justice, Jesus of Bethlehem, Holy Spirit of Hope.

In Advent we long for you. You, God, are our love, our warmth, our light.

(R.Burgess, Iona)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE In the Bleak Midwinter (*K. McChesney*) Embellished Handbell Ensemble
November 2021

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

Acknowledgment of Territory/Candle of Remembrance-Every Child Matters

As we come into worship today, we acknowledge that we reside and worship on the traditional lands of the people of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation... and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.



CALL TO WORSHIP Rev's Andy & Lorraine

It is the season of Advent-
Jesus is coming-be alert.
In times of joy and abundance,
we are ready.
In the midst of difficulty and danger,
we are ready.
In times of uncertainty and fear,
we are ready.
In times of apathy and despair,
we are ready.
With anticipation and with hope,
we look for God's long-promised one.
We will not be disappointed.
We will not be disheartened.
Jesus is coming and we are ready.
(D.Sparks, Summerland, B.C.)

HYMN People Look East (*E.Farjeon/M.F.Shaw*) VU 9

People look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your home fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows; be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
love the rose is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledgling time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
love the Lord is on the way.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Hope) John & Helena Barkla

We come during this advent season of waiting,
but we're tired of waiting for this pandemic to end,
we're tired of waiting for the church building to be open once again,
we're tired of waiting to be able to embrace one another in greeting.
We come into this digital space longing, hoping for rescue.
We come together through our screens,
searching for meaning which transforms our fears.
In the gloom of our thoughts, through the preoccupation of our doom-scrolling,
we come to prepare for a place for solace through purpose-filled healing.
We breathe deeply of Spirit breath, feeling the strength of God's presence.
We light a candle reminding us of the way of hope.

(the first Advent candle is lit)

Let us join as one community of faith in prayer:

Loving God, we struggle every day to live into Christ's Way.

During this season of Advent, we rediscover the infant Jesus.

This is not the rescuer we yearned to discover.

In this vulnerable, helpless, backwoods, oppressed peasant-child,

you chose to offer us a different vision for wholeness, for life.

Like the feeble, flickering flame we just lit, it doesn't seem enough.

Whisper to our hearts, inform our minds, reassure our souls

that what you give us is more than enough and all we need.

In your whispers, may we find endurance, courage and daring. Amen.

(Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont.)

SUNG RESPONSE Hope Is a Star *(B.Wren/J.C.Fogg) VU 7*

Hope is a star that shines in the night,

leading us on till the morning is bright.

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.

THEME STORY Advent for Kids *YouTube*

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 33:14-16 (A righteous branch from David's line.) NRSV

Joyce Hagarty

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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."

GIFT OF MUSIC Come, Emmanuel *(D.Besig/N.Price)*

AUC Chancel Choir, November 2021

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36 (Signs in the heavens/parable of the fig tree.) NRSV

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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven 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 catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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.”

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON *Already & Not Yet*

HYMN All Earth is Waiting (*Taule/Suppe*) VU 5

All earth is waiting to see the Promise One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling,
seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice
and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
‘A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.’
One whose name is ‘God with us,’
our Saviour shall be, through whom hope
will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
Open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

A Statement about the gifts we bring in worship for the life of the church....

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending *(Cennick/Wesley/Madan) VU 25*

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
see the Lamb for sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall then behold you,
robed in awesome majesty;
all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you,
pierced, and nailed you to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
deeply grieving, shall the true Messiah see.

Now redemption, long expected
see in solemn pomp appear;
all the saints, by us rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!

Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,
High on your eternal throne;
Crowns and empires fall before you,
Claim the kingdom for your own:
O come quickly! O come quickly!
O come quickly! Everlasting Christ,
come down.

COMMISSIONING

As we enter this Advent season,
Let there be hope, peace, joy and love!
Let there be light among the people.
Shalom. Peace. Paix. Mir, Migwetch. Amen.
(adapted from, C.McClelland, North Bramalea U.C.)

SUNG BLESSING Hope Shines as the Solitary Star *(C.F.MacLean/J.B.Tissandier)MV 220*

Hope shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

POSTLUDE All Bells in Paradise *(J.Rutter) YouTube*
Choir of King's College, Cambridge



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are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.

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Participating in Worship today...

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar,
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble, Joyce Hagarty, AUC Chancel Choir

With thanks to... Noah Comar, videographer, and to Bob Kyriakides, video editor...and to all who are filming at home in order to participate in worship in some way! ☺

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