

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Creator of the Stars of Night (M. McCabe)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Charles & Myrtle Truax

INTROIT God of All Places (D. Haas/D. Young)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we enter the season of Advent,
a time of remembering, of waiting, of preparing.
**We remember Advents past, but this Advent is new.
We have new hopes, new things for which to wait.**
We remember the One who came to bring us light
and we long for the fullness of God's peace
to come in our time.
**We remember the life of Jesus,
and we long to find new life in him.**
God has promised that good things are yet to come,
that God's light will be known among us.
**So let us prepare ourselves. Let us remember
and wait and worship God this day!**

***HYMN** People Look East *insert 7*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Hope)

Debra Hilliard/Noah Comar

1: As we look toward the night sky, we see the sparkle
of stars set against the depth of infinite space. We feel
humbled by the vastness of the universe and over-
whelmed by what we do not know.

2: Like another star sparking in the night, we light this
candle. Holy Light, you shine with hope in the challenges
of our world.

**Open us to recognize your presence all around us, even
when all seems shadowed and overwhelming. Amen.**

First blue candle is lit.

SUNG RESPONSE We Light This Candle (Mayberry/Kai)

We light this candle for Hope.

Await the new life within.

May our hearts now live each day,

so Hope can find a way,

so Hope can find a way.

Let us pray...

**Holy Light, in the dawning of Advent, awaken us to signs
of your presence. Be with us in this time of waiting. May
the eager anticipation, so much a part of this festive time
be transformed into a deep yearning for your reign of
hope and love. We pray in the name of the One who
comes. Amen.**

THEME CONVERSATION

SONG Prepare the Way of the Lord VU 10

Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a straight path for him, make a straight path;
prepare the way of the Lord.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:1-9 p. 694-5 Pew Bible OT

(We are the clay; you are our potter.) Jennifer Kenwell

ANTHEM A Star Will Soon Shine (Price/Besig)

with Peter Zsebik, electronic wind instrument

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37 p.50-51 Pew Bible NT
(The Son of Man coming in the clouds.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON A Thrill of Hope-
the Weary World Rejoices

***CAROL** O Holy Night (A.Adam)

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
in all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Carol of the Bells (M.Leontovich arr. L.Smith)

***DEDICATION** As We Offer Gifts (Tune: VU 81)

As we offer gifts most rare
at your stable crude and bare,
and we bend our knee before
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so our humble hearts we bring,
Christ, to you our praise we sing.

OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing

PRAYER PRELUDE Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ (J.Bell)

MV 166

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Son of God among us,
thank you for every sign showing that you love us.
(sing twice)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN** Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending *insert 8*

*** 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

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. (MV 220)

POSTLUDE People, Look East (Dale Wood)



MISSION AND SERVICE

Gifts with Vision: Transforming Lives

“I don’t want anything for Christmas. I really don’t need anything this year.”

This is something many of us have heard, and maybe something we’ve found ourselves saying. And while it may be true, despite not wanting or needing anything, gifts are going to happen anyway. Instead of searching “gifts for someone who is hard to buy for,” why not give Gifts with Vision?

Gifts with Vision is a way to give gifts from the comfort of home, with no packaging or wrapping needed. Instead of gadgets and fleeting trends, Gifts with Vision is full of gifts that will help transform people’s lives throughout Canada and across the world. When placing your order, you’ll be able to add an e-card, including a delivery date, for each gift.

Every Gift with Vision provides support for a specific Mission and Service partner offering a unique project. Without Mission and Service, Gifts with Vision projects would not be possible. Thank you for supporting both. When Christmas rolls around, remember that a meaningful gift is a simple click away. If madly dashing around the mall on Christmas Eve is your gift-buying style, kick back and relax. Gifts with Vision has you covered! Thank you for your generosity through Mission and Service.



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

AURORA UNITED CHURCH

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Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



ADVENT 1 –HOPE
December 3, 2023
11:00 AM

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.)

People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house 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 fledging 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.

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

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.

