

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Variations on "People Look East"
(Mark D. Himmelman)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Susan Sue-Ling

INTROIT On Jordan's Bank (Charles Coffin, trans. John
Chandler, Musikalisches Handbuch arr. W.H. Havergal)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Dawn is Near

The night is long, but a whisper moves
through the shadows.

A candle flickers where hearts are still.

The world waits, and we wait,
holding to the promise, that the One who comes will
bring light to every corner.

Hope stirs in the quiet places, lifting the weary and
comforting the afraid.

Even in the darkness God's Word shines.

Calling us to watch, to prepare, to believe.

***HYMN** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus p. 7

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL and
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Holy one, as we watch, wait and prepare for Jesus'
birth anew, help us to recognize your light in our
midst. May we learn to lean more deeply into your
faithful presence and discover your gifts of hope,
peace, love and joy. We pray in the name of Jesus

and pray together.... Our Father who art in Heaven.
Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will
be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we
forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever
and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Peter, Marilyn and Sophie Zsebik

Today we begin the season of Advent —

**a time of watching, waiting, and preparing our hearts
for the coming of Christ.**

**On this first Sunday, we light the Candle of Hope,
remembering the prophets who foretold the coming of
a Savior and the hope we find in God's promises
fulfilled through Jesus Christ.**

**Even in darkness, His light shines — and we wait with
expectant hearts for His coming again in glory.**

The night is long, yet stars still gleam.

A whisper stirs us from our sleep — the dawn of Christ
draws near.

We wait in hope, for the Light is coming.

We prepare our hearts for the promised King.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great
light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

The promise of God still shines in the dark.

We hold to His Word and trust in His light.

(The first candle of Advent is lit.)

A candle flickers, soft and small, a herald flame, yet hope
for all. It dances with a holy grace, a sign that Love will
take its place.

**We light this candle as a sign of our hope. The light
shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not
overcome it.**

SUNG RESPONSE We Light This Candle
(Pat Mayberry arr. David 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.**

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 122 p. 7
(I was glad when they said unto me.) *Laurie Bentolila*

ANTHEM Thou Shalt Know Him (Mark Sirett)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 24:36-44
(We do not know the future.) *pp. 27-28 Pew Bible NT*

SERMON *Rev. Linda Wheler and Rev. Tim Dayfoot*

***HYMN** People Look East p. 8

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

**AN ACT OF COVENANTING WITH
THE MINISTRY TEAM** *(on insert)*

SECURING OUR MINISTRY CAMPAIGN

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
(arr. B. McMaken/T. McMaken/J. Swank/M. Cunningham)
Lisa Kyriakides/Janice Nolan/Margaret Heney

***DEDICATION** In the Bleak Midwinter *(Tune: VU 55)*

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.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

PRAYER PRELUDE We Call to You, O God *(Mayberry/Kai)*
We call to You, O God, in faith and with open heart,
hear our prayer. We call to You, O God, in faith
and with open heart, hear, hear our prayer.
Hear, hear our prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN** Let Us Build a House **MV 1** (vss. 1,2,4,5)

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
safely live, a place where saints and children tell how
hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and
visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
Christ shall end divisions:

**Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are
welcome in this place.**

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are
strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to
dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as
witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we
claim the faith of Jesus: **R.**

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the
wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and
the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an
end to fear and danger: **R.**

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and
visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as
words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim
from the floor to rafter: **R**

***COMMISSIONING**

***SUNG BLESSING** Let There Be Peace on Earth
(Jackson/Miller)

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

POSTLUDE Carillon on "People Look East"
(Mark D. Himmelman)

December Services - AUC @ Trinity Anglican Church

Advent II (Peace) - December 7, 2025 - 11 Am

Advent III (Joy) - December 14, 2025 - 11 Am

Advent IV (Love) - December 21, 2025 - 11 Am

Carols by Candlelight - December 21, 2025 - 4 and 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2025 - 5 pm



*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



An Affirming Congregation

Church Office 905-727-1935
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Rev. Tim Dayfoot & Rev. Linda Wheler
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



ADVENT 1 (Hope)
Covenanting with Ministers

November 30, 2025
11:00 AM

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus **VU 2**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever; now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Psalm 122 **VU 845**

R With joy we go to God's own house and enter with a song.

I was glad when they said to me:

Let us go to the house of God.

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city bound firmly together.

There the tribes go up, the tribes of God, to give thanks to the name of God, as we
decreed for Israel.

There the thrones of justice stand, the thrones of David's house. R

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May those who love you prosper!

May there be peace within your walls, prosperity within your palaces!

For the sake of my kin and friends I say: Peace be with you!

For the sake of the house of our God, I will seek your good. R

People, Look East **VU 9**

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.