



UNITED CHURCHES  
OF LANGLEY  
WEAVING A FAITH THAT MATTERS  
[unitedchurchesoflangley.ca](http://unitedchurchesoflangley.ca)

# MORE VOICES





# MORE VOICES

This is a strange and different time for Advent to arrive....

We wait – for health authority restrictions to lift, for opportunities to be together IN PERSON, to hug and to sing with others “as we have always done” EVERY Advent and Christmas season of our lives...

This year will not include many things. No in-person Holly Tea, Christmas Bazaar, nor cookie sales. No Mistletoe Concert. No 200+ people in the Sanctuary in Murrayville on Christmas Eve, no 100+ people in the Chapel in Fort Langley, no gleeful squeals of little ones as the animals, Mary and Joseph make their way to the stable...

And yet, we have the opportunity to create NEW traditions, new ways of engaging with our families, friends and church community,... and with God... and these new ways can be rich, and deep and meaningful – just in a different way.

And we have the opportunity to slow down, to tune our listening ear to hear different voices in the mix: the serving voices, the humble voices, the familial voices... If we listen carefully, we will hear the voice of God in all the voices... possibly in a whole new way.

We have prepared this “More Voices” Advent booklet with Faith-At-Home prayers and activities, plus an Advent Engagement packet for all ages. The weekly liturgy will be followed in our livestream worship service. There is guidance each week on what to prepare to engage with the worship service online as well practices you can do at home to create new personal traditions for Advent. Also download the Advent Engagement Packet for worship support materials & fun activities. Don’t forget to email us pictures of your nativity scenes and your Christmas wishes to your church family!

Take time each day to develop your own new traditions, to honour what has been, and update it in a way that is beautiful and connecting for you. And maybe, just maybe, you can find the Christ being born in you, in your family and our world, and share in the gleeful squeals of wonder and awe in remembering that the Christ light comes, only in the darkest of times... this year, and all years!

## **The word Advent means “Coming”**

This is a Season of the year when we make room in our hearts and our lives for the coming of the Light of the Christ Child: a time to practice waiting, to practice getting ready, a time to practice hope, peace, love and joy.

This is the beginning of the Christian year. We encourage you to practice Advent at home, alone or with friends or family (that are part of your bubble!). We hope these Advent and Christmas practices help you pay attention to the presence of the Holy in your life...

## **What are you waiting for? What are you listening for?**

May this be a joyful, thoughtful, spacious season for all as we join with millions around the world in hope-filled expectation that Love is being born in our world.

# HOPE



## ADVENT ONE: HOPE LITURGY

The word Advent means "Coming". This is a Season of the year when we make room in our hearts and our lives for the coming of the Light of the Christ Child. In commemoration of the coming and our waiting and preparing, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart, a hopeful soul. We light the first candle, the candle of hope, to express our longing for wholeness, for healing, and the well-being of creation.

**What do you hope for?** *(reflect on this daily and share in the Sunday worship chat)*

### Prayer:

*Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,  
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories  
to the healing light of Christ.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen*



The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world – "*what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*" ~ John 1:4-5

**We light a light in the name of the Christ,  
bringer of Truth and Hope in the Darkness.**

## LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Choose a place in your home and make it as dark as possible.

Maybe a closet or room where you can block out window light?

Enter the place with an unlit candle or flashlight. Once your eyes have adjusted to the darkness, see if you can notice any spots where there is still light.

Is it possible to block out those light sources too?

Light a candle or turn on a flash light. What a difference a small source of light can make in what otherwise seems to be a dark place.

**What places in your life can you bring light to darkness? What helps you to see the light in times of darkness? How does the light of the Christ shine in the world?**



## ADVENT ONE: Nov 29 – Dec 5, 2020 Faith-At-Home ~ HOPE

Traditions are such a significant part of our preparation and celebration of Advent & Christmas. Advent wreaths adorn sanctuaries and dinner tables, preparation of special foods fill our freezers, cards and letters get mailed, decorations adorn the home and church, and there are lights in and outside our homes and churches.

### Personalized Advent Wreath

Advent wreaths are a tradition in many homes, and common to see in sanctuaries for worship. Advent Wreaths have four candles to light, one on each Week of Advent, and one White Candle to light on Christmas Day. The United Church of Canada's practice is to have 3 blue candles for Hope, Peace and Love, 1 pink candle for Joy, and 1 white to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Light of the World.

We invite you to mark the journey of Advent to Christmas by creating your own Advent Wreath at home. Don't have pink and blue candles? Just add coloured ribbon around candles you already have!

Imagine and create something from what you find at home. Share a photo of your creations to [office@ucol.ca](mailto:office@ucol.ca).

**Bonus:** join the #AdventWreathChallengePMRC and post a photo on Instagram of your beautiful Advent wreath creation with the tagged hashtag.



**Let Hope find me.  
Let Hope find you.  
Let Hope find us.**

#### Hope this Week:

Each evening, light your Advent 1 candle using the words from the previous page.

Think of something in the world you have Hope for: hope for a friend to feel better, hope for your neighbours to be safe, hope for a city or country to have peace.

Draw a picture, doodle your thoughts, write a poem. These are your prayers for Hope this week.



### PREPARATION FOR ADVENT TWO – HOLLY TEA IN WORSHIP

Looking back at some past traditions of UCoL, the Holly Tea comes to mind... but this year, it's **virtual** – in next week's online worship!

Decorate your Holly placemat from your Advent Engagement packet, set out a fancy tea cup and saucer, make your favourite tea, and prepare a plate of your favourite triangle sandwiches, cookies and squares! And get ready to share in this tradition in a whole new way during worship!



This year we have decided to offer a Blue Christmas service earlier in the season. We know this is a tough time for many in light of the Covid restrictions.

Join us online on Wednesday, December 2, 6pm, for a service of sharing our hurts and our hopes for Christmas 2020. Link will be available in the e-news and on our website:

[www.UnitedChurchesOfLangley.ca](http://www.UnitedChurchesOfLangley.ca)

Share the link with friends!

# PEACE



## HOLLY TEA / LUNCHEON WORSHIP

Have you decorated your Holly placemat, poured a cuppa tea in your fancy tea cup, and prepared a plate of your favourite triangle sandwiches, cookies and squares!? Hope So! See you online!



## ADVENT TWO: PEACE LITURGY

Last week, we lit the first candle – the candle of Hope.

Today we light the second candle, the candle of Peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is hard to find, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

**Where do you see people working for peace?**

*(reflect on this daily, and share in the Sunday worship chat)*

### Prayer:

*Loving God, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us.*

*Show us the creative power of hope.*

*Teach us the peace that comes from justice.*

*Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,*

*That we may walk in the light of Christ.*

*Amen*

**We light a light in the name of the Christ, ...**

**Prince of Peace - in our hearts, our families, and the world.**

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT - HAMPER PROJECT

The Christmas Hamper program has been a part of our church outreach for many years. In the past during the Advent season we prepare hampers for 12 to 24 Langley families with the hope that we can help them have a joyous Christmas.

Because of Covid, this year we will be purchasing gift cards for the families and donating funds to the Langley Christmas Bureau from our Legacy Fund. If you would like to help purchase the gifts cards, please get in touch with Andrea Hammond, [andreamondd@shaw.ca](mailto:andreamondd@shaw.ca). You can be reimbursed by the Legacy Fund for any gift cards you buy.

We know this might not feel the same as buying gifts and food but it is a safe way that we can still participate in this important ministry. Since the Christmas Hampers are now supported by the Legacy fund, we hope you will donate to "All UCoL Ministries & Mission" whatever you would normally designate for the Hamper project.



## ADVENT TWO: Dec 6-12, 2020 Faith-At-Home ~ PEACE



### Reflect on all the words for peace.

(see dove above or look up your own).

Say the words to yourself, or out loud.

Notice how they feel inside of you,  
and what images arise when you say "Peace."

Peace in the Heart  
Peace in the Family.  
Peace in the Community  
Peace in the World.

### Peace this Week:

Each evening, light your Advent 2 candle  
using the words from the previous page.

Journal or doodle each day about:

**Where do you see people  
working for peace?**

Spend 30 minutes OFF screen,  
by yourself or with family each day.  
How does this kind of peace feel?

Find a story where you someone is  
working for peace in the world.  
Share the story with others.

Say a prayer for a specific kind of peace  
you as you blow out your Peace candle.

Read on this passage daily – and reflect on what it means to you: John 14:27 (in 3 translations)

*"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart.*

*And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."* ~ NLT

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let  
your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* ~ NIV

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.  
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* ~ ESV



### PREPARATION for ADVENT THREE

With traditions still in mind, we would like to remember the Nativity Gallery  
from all around the world that we've displayed for the past few years...

Set-up or create your own nativity scene at home

and send a picture to [office@ucol.ca](mailto:office@ucol.ca) BY Monday, December 7  
to be included in our virtual "Nativity Gallery" photo slideshow  
as we begin our Advent 3 Worship service





## ADVENT THREE: LOVE LITURGY

We have lit two candles – one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle – the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rules and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love because God loves us.

**What gift of love have you received from someone else?**  
*(reflect on this daily, and share in the Sunday worship chat)*

### Prayer:

*Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.*

*As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.*

*Show us the creative power of hope.*

*Teach us the peace that comes from justice.*

*Magnify your love within us.*

*Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,*

*That we may walk in the light of Christ.*

*Amen*

**We light a light in the name of the Christ, ...  
Source of Love, Lover of All, Beloved.**



### MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT - "MITTEN TREE"

You will notice that the annual Mitten Tree has been erected in the Sanctuary on the Chancel for worship!

We are collecting Mittens, Scarves, Hats/Toques and cozy socks for Gateway of Hope and Nicomekl Elementary kids!

You can drop by your donations in the box on the front porch of the Murrayville location. And we will bring them in and add them to the tree over the season of advent.

Let's bring a little peace and comfort during these dark and cold times of winter.  
Peace in our hearts... peace in our community, peace in the world!





## ADVENT THREE: Dec 13-19, 2020 Faith-At-Home ~ LOVE

Reflect on the scripture from Advent 1,2 & 3

Luke 1:26-38

Luke 1:39-56

Mark 1:1-8

What do each of these passages show you about love?

How do they reflect a story of faith?



### CHRISTMAS MUSIC

One great love of many during the Christmas season is the seasonal music!

Music is already being played on most radio stations. The Pacific Mountain Region has put together a playlist of Christmas music on Spotify!

Go to Spotify and search for the "*PMRC Seeking Light 2020*" and find the United Church regional staff's treasured music and podcasts for the season!

Have your own private or family dance party to your favourite Christmas tunes, - in person, or on Zoom, Facetime or Skype!



Source of Love

Lover of All

Eternal Beloved

Let Love Abound Always!

Love this Week:

Each evening, light your Advent 3 candle using the words from the previous page.

Journal or doodle each day about:

**What gift of love have you received from someone else?**

Think of 7 people who are not part of your "birth" family but who are part of your "chosen" family. Remember the Love you have for them and that they have for you. Call one of them each day this week to share your love with them,

If you have a pet or a small child in your life, bring them to mind, and allow yourself to feel the love you have for them in every aspect of your being. If you can safely do so, connect with them in person this week... and if not in person – maybe online through Zoom, FaceTime or Skype.

### PREPARATION for ADVENT FOUR

Time to bring back another tradition of UCoL - the Mistletoe Concert! This year it will be a virtual Mistletoe Concert as part of our Advent 4 worship service, December 20, 10:30am. Light a fire, grab a cuppa nog, and get ready to hear some great stories and wonderful music by many of your UCoL friends!

**Make a video of your personal or family Christmas Wishes** message to the other United Churches of Langley congregants, and email to [office@ucol.ca](mailto:office@ucol.ca) BY Monday, December 14 to be included in our virtual Mistletoe worship service.





## MISTLETOE CONCERT as WORSHIP!

Get ready for a Joyful Celebration of Music and Community! Watch and listen for your UCoL friends as they bring to your home this year's Mistletoe Concert as part of our Advent 4 worship service. Get your singing voice and tapping toes ready!



## ADVENT FOUR: JOY LITURGY

We have lit three candles, one for hope, one for peace, and one for love. Today we light the fourth candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us – in people, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations – or our memories – push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us.

**What joy is springing up in you today?**

*(reflect on this daily and add to the Sunday Worship chat )*

### Prayer:

*Loving God, we open ourselves to you,  
trusting that this is how you made us:  
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Magnify your love within us.  
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained  
but must be shared.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ.  
Amen*

**We light a light in the name of the Christ, ...  
Joy of Joys, Heart of the Cosmos.**



## Don't Miss our Joy-full Jazzy Christmas Vespers

Sunday, December 20, 2020, 4pm Online – featuring Leora Cache!  
Christmas Songs & Stories – Jazzed Up!  
Link will be available on our website: [www.ucol.ca](http://www.ucol.ca)

## ADVENT FOUR: Dec 20-24, 2020 Faith-At-Home ~ JOY



### PERSONALIZED ORNAMENTS:

Look in your Advent Engagement Packet that was sent to you to find colouring pages of ornaments. You can decorate these and add them to your Christmas tree or Advent altar. Or make one with your own supplies at home!

And don't forget about all the colouring sheets, word search, nativity template and other activities in your Advent Engagement packet.

### TIN CAN LUMINARY (one to keep, one to share!)

#### Materials Needed

- Tin Can, Sand
- Nail, Hammer
- Sharpie marker
- Tea light Candle



#### Directions

- Ensure the tin can has been carefully washed and dried before beginning
- Cover the raw edge of the can with masking tape (remove when finished)
- Draw a starry-like pattern onto the can with marker
- Lay can on side and use the nail and hammer to punch holes along star outline
- Place sand on bottom of the can and then place tea light candle in the centre of the sand

### Joy of Joys

### Heart of the Cosmos

### Springing up with Exuberance!

Each evening, light your Advent 4 candle using the words from the previous page.

Journal or doodle each day about:

**What joy is springing up in you today?**

#### Joy this Week:

If you are feeling low, try some laughter yoga... laugh for one minute straight without stopping, even if you have to fake it until you feel it!

If you are grouchy, imagine your heart smiling for one full minute... then notice if a smile appears on your face. Breathe that in!

Complaint-free day: Take one day this week to live in a complaint free zone. Catch yourself anytime you find you think of a complaint, or express a complaint ... about covid, life, work, family... anything! Journal at night how it felt to be free of the bondage of complaints for one day!



### PREPARATION for CHRISTMAS EVE

Bring your tin-can luminary and place it on the table on the front porch of the Murrayville location some time **before** or on December 24 and we will place a candle in each and light them all that eve!

**The Church will be adorned with Christmas Lights all of Advent.**

We invite you to come and enjoy the "stars" beckoning the Christ Child to be born!

On Christmas Eve, 5pm – just as evening begins... come by the Murrayville location and take a drive past the church and honk your horn. Look and see if anyone is waiting for the Christ Child?!

Then head on home for dinner and get ready for **7pm online Christmas Eve worship!**

If you're not able to drive by, go out and look at the stars (if it's not too cloudy) or drive around your neighbourhood to see the Christmas Lights (Stars!) shining bright!

# CHRISTMAS EVE

The Advent time of waiting and preparing is over! Hope, peace, love and joy. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the creative power of hope, peace that comes from justice, the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared, and a love that is magnified. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

The light reminds us that God promises to be with us, to comfort us, to help us rejoice and to teach us to love. Today we light the Christ candle to remind us of all God has done for us.

## **Prayer:**

*Holy One, We rejoice in your presence in our lives,  
and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth –  
born of Mary, growing through childhood into adult ministry,  
in all his life revealing the peace, love, and justice of God;  
Come to us, Lord Jesus,  
Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives.  
May the light of your life be kindled in us,  
And lead us to the shining truth,  
of God with us, God for us, God in us.  
Amen*

Although we are not able to be together in person, we are always together "in spirit"....  
Please know that you are in our hearts and prayers.

May this Christmas remind us that God is Born in us and through us,...  
in the dark, and in the light.

As we pour forth in love for each other, we give birth to a love that conquers all.

Be Kind. Be Calm. Be Safe... We're In This Together....

*In Love & Light,*

Rev. Sophia Ducey and Rev. Ryan Tristan Chapman

**Please hold all of your church family in your thoughts and prayers this Season.**

And if you are able, please make an end-of-year donation to All of the Ministries of United Churches of Langley

Online Giving: <https://givepoint.com/unitedchurchesoflangley>

Or e-transfer: [transfers@ucol.ca](mailto:transfers@ucol.ca) through your bank

Or by mail: 21562 Old Yale Road, Langley, BC V3A4M8, Canada

**Thanks for your Generosity that supports All UCoL Ministries!**