

Trinity United Church

December 6, 2020 Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Trinity United Church. We strive to be a safe community for all; regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, religious affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identification. We are all invited guests of God.

This pandemic has continued to highlight how connected we are to each other. Our history and present is also linked to the indigenous people of Turtle Island who still walk on this land. May we find a shared way of healing the worst of what has happened and foster the best of what might come. May our future relationships bring health, justice, forgiveness and wellness to all.

Lighting the Second Advent Candle (Hope Is a Star)

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,

Giving a promise of safety and worth.

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.

Announcements

Hymn 2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

Older Testament Reading Isaiah 40: 1-11 (comfort)

Hymn 73 O God, Why Are You Silent? From *More Voices*

O God, why are you silent? I cannot hear your voice.
The proud and strong and violent all claim you and rejoice.
You promised you would hold me with tenderness and care.
Draw near, O Love, enfold me, and ease the pain I bear.

Now lost within my grieving, I fall and lose my way,
my fragile, faint believing so swiftly swept away.
O God of pain and sorrow, my compass and guide,
I cannot face the morrow without you by my side.

My hope lies bruised and battered, my wounded heart is torn;
My spirit spent and shattered by life's relentless storm.
Will you not bend to hear me, my cries from deep within?
Have you no word to cheer me when night is closing in?

Through endless nights of weeping, through weary days of grief,
My heart is in your keeping, my comfort, my relief.
Come, share my tears and sadness, come, suffer in my pain;
O bring me home to gladness, restore my hope again.

May pain draw forth compassion, let wisdom rise from loss.
O take my heart and fashion the image of your cross.
Then may I know your healing through healing that I share,
Your grace and love revealing your tenderness and care.

Epistle 2 Peter 3: 8-15 (new heaven and earth)
Gospel Mark 1: 1-8 (John appears)

Sermon “*Father Time*” Rev. Brian Goodings

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation and Acknowledgement of Offerings
Prayer of Dedication

Hymn 28 God of the Bible from *More Voices*

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empow’r us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Those without status, those who are nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,

but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other,
till our world changes facing the Cross.

Benediction Hymn 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Verse 1

***O come, O Come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Postlude