\*\*Trinity United Church

1st Sunday in Advent November 27, 2022

*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 identity. We are all invited guests of God.*

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*We acknowledge that for many thousands of years the indigenous people of Turtle Island walked on this land. We are thankful to share in the special spirit of this place, rich in the energy of Mother Earth and the love of all Creation.*

**\*Lighting the First Advent Candle - Hope**

*(Candle lighting by Patti and Phil Watson)*

**Voice 1:**

“Come, let us go up to the mountain, to the house of God, that we can be taught God’s way and go on God’s path.”

**Voice 2:**

What do you hope for in the new world?

**All:**

**We hope for a future that is more amazing than anything we could ever imagine.**

**We hope for the healing of creation.**

**We hope for good mental health and wellness.**

**We hope for a world where everyone seeks the good.**

**Voice 1:**

Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world, where we can dare to hope boldly.

**Voice 2:**

May it be so*. (the 1st candle is lit)*

**Sung Response: VU6 A Candle Is Burning (v. 1)**

**Announcements and Opportunities@Trinity**

## Call to Worship

I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the Giver of hope!”

**We come today with eager expectation.**

**Our feet are standing within God’s gates.**

Come, let us go up to the mountain that the Giver may teach us the way of peace.

**We come today with holy expectation.**

**Our hands are lifted with grateful praise.**

We gather at the edge of the throne of justice.

**Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!**

*(Inspired by Psalm 122, Isaiah 2:15)*

**Opening Hymn: VU5 All Earth Is Waiting**

**Opening Prayer**

God of the faith that the past has taught us, God of the hope that the present has brought us, we call on you in this hour of worship.

We know that you need no invocation for you are already and always with us— Emmanuel, even before the child is born.

We open our hearts to receive your gifts, for you are the Giver of hope, the Giver of peace, the Giver of joy, the Giver of love.

Make your presence known as we make ourselves available to you. Amen.

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty.

**In a world full of hopelessness, we have sometimes forgotten that you are our hope, dear God.**

**Consumed by the chaos of the world, we lean into helplessness instead of your loving embrace.**

**We cling to the stony roads and the bitter rods felt in days when unborn hope had died;**

**We’ve forgotten that you promised us hope for a future.**

**So, stimulate our memory, dear God.**

**Remind us of that hope you assured us of.**

**Be with us as we cling to it in the midnight hours of waiting.**

*……a time for silent reflection*

**Words of Grace**

Let us know that God gives us unmerited hope for a future,

peace like a river, joy everlasting, and love. No misstep can separate us from the gifts of God.

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

*(opening prayers from* United *Church of Christ prayers for Nov. 27, 2022)*

**Communion Hymn: VU 480 Let Us Break Bread Together**

**Celebration of Communion**

**Invitation**

At this table we bear witness to our faith.

Here, the common things of life,

bread and juice, memories and dreams,

become holy, touched by God.

All are welcome to this celebration of faith.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is good to give our thanks and praise.**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

Blessings be to you, Creator God,

who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

**Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still brings us hope.**

Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope and share your love.

**But even when they have closed their ears to the song, you did not stop singing.**

You sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.

**They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.**

And then you came to a young woman and laid out the promise in a new way. You promised she would bear a blessed child who would be called Jesus.

**The one who would not waver from the path of peace and love even though he was a target of violence and hatred.**

And, in the fullness of time, you sent us your greatest gift,

your son, Jesus Christ.

**Born of Mary, he shares our life.**

**Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.**

**Guiding children, he leads us.**

**Visiting the sick, he heals us.**

**Raised from the dead, he gives new life.**

With thanksgiving we gather at this table and ask for the grace of your blessing that we may be united in spirit and encouraged in hope to live as your faithful people through this Advent time. Amen.

**Breaking the Bread and Raising the Cup**

**Communion is served**

*Please come forward and receive the elements as indicated.*

**Prayer after Communion**

Dear Lord, we give thanks that in this simple meal of bread and juice, the grace of your love can transform our hearts. May we who have shared this blessing, likewise share it with others as we journey on the road to Bethlehem. Amen.

**Responsive Psalm: Psalm 122 VU p 845**

*Refrain: 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 was 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**

**Scripture Readings**

**Isaiah 2:1-5** *Swords into ploughshares*

**Matthew 24:36-44** *No one knows the hour*

*(read by Ralph Sneyd)*

**Organ/Piano Duet:** This is God’s Wonderous World

*(Keiko Kuepfer & Paul Sloan)*

**Reflection: hope with a capital H**  *(Rev. Mary Elizabeth Piercy)*

**Hymn: VU 312 Praise with Joy the World’s Creator**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer (sung VU 960)**

**Acknowledgement of Offerings**

We acknowledge with deep gratitude the many gifts of

money, time, talent and prayer that allow this faith

community to continue to share God’s love and hope in our

world.

**Let us Pray,**

**Dear Lord, we offer our gifts to you in love, trusting you will bless them and us. May all that we offer become tangible expressions of your love at work in the world for Christ’s sake. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: VU 507 Today We All Are Called to Be**

**Disciples**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Choral Blessing: VU 967 Amen**

**Postlude**: **Organ/Piano Duet:**  Faith of our Fathers

*(Keiko Kuepfer & Paul Sloan)*

\**(Candle Liturgy from the United Church of Canada Advent Unwrapped resource for Advent*

*2022 – based on Bold Discipleship, one of three calls to action in the Church’s new call and*

*vision statement)*