

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

CAROL SING

PRELUDE Manger Lullabies (Steven Scott)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Martha Bailkowski

INTROIT Joy Shall Come (Israeli trad., arr. D.Nixon)

CALL TO WORSHIP

In every season of life,
**God is always with us,
even when we believe otherwise.**

In this season of waiting,
**Jesus reminds us that Bethlehem
is the beginning of our discipleship,
and not the end of our journey.**

In this season of Advent— in anticipation and hope,
**the Spirit opens our hearts
to the songs of the angels.**

***HYMN** People Look East (p.7)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Holly Williamson/Deb Hilliard/Nancy Kerswill

Today is the Advent of hope. We light this candle
to bring hope into the shadows of despair.

**We live in hope for the light at the end of the
tunnel and the end of the pandemic.**

We light this candle as our commitment to
bringing healing into the world.

We are the hope for a better future.

We light this candle to reveal the Way of Jesus,
the Hope of the World.

The first candle is lit.

**We light this candle of hope, and we remember the
stories of God with us, when life has been hard, and
not what we expected. We can trust that God is with us,
as we wait for hope to be born anew in us.**

SUNG RESPONSE Hope is a Star (B.Wren) VU 7

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
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.**

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 2:1-5 p.631-632 Pew Bible OT
(Swords into ploughshares.) Lisa Kyriakides

ANTHEM Creator of the Stars of Night (Jeff Enns)

GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44 p. 27-28 Pew Bible NT
(No one knows the hour.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Comfort & Joy

***CAROL** God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen (Eng Trad.Carol)

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
for Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone
astray, O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our Heavenly Father a blessed Angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by Name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway the Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy

But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this infant lay,
they found Him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
his Mother Mary kneeling down, unto the Lord did pray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood each other now
embrace; this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY We Three Kings (arr. K.McChesney)
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

***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 We Call to You O God
We call to You, O God, *(Mayberr/Kai)*
**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 & LORD'S PRAYER
(p.8)

***HYMN** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending *(p.7)*

*** COMMISSIONING**
 The road to Bethlehem is before us.
Let us be guided by the star.
 The road to Bethlehem is within us.
Then let us be midwives to God's birth.

***SUNG BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary Star
MV 220

**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.**

POSTLUDE Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(Paul Karvonen)

Hope Comes in the Form of A Vaccine
 Give the Ultimate Gift of Life

For many of us these days, hope comes in the form of a vaccine. And Giving Tuesday on November 30—just around the corner from Hope Sunday—is a good time to share it. The COVID-19 crisis won't end for anyone until it ends for everyone. And in some parts of the world, no end is in sight.

Our Mission & Service partner ACT Alliance reports that out of all the vaccines administered around the world, **less than 2 percent reached Africa and less than 7 percent reached South America.** Many countries in the Global South and East won't even be able to start a vaccine program until 2022. If this continues, these countries won't reach vaccination goals until 2024...if ever.

Your gifts through Mission & Service continue to contribute food and relief items to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling the distribution of personal protective equipment, and supporting programs to prevent and control the spread of the disease. Through the United Church's Gifts with Vision, we are offering an opportunity to give the ultimate gift—the gift of life. For just \$25, you can save a life by providing a full vaccination to someone in the world who needs one.

Together we can make a difference. If you are planning to make a special charitable gift this Giving Tuesday, please consider offering the gift of full vaccination. And thank you for faithfully giving through Mission & Service.

Your ongoing support truly does help save lives.



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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Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



ADVENT 1 –HOPE
November 27, 2022
11:00 AM

As the days grow shorter and the darkness grows, we light Advent candles each week to remind us that we do not face the darkness alone but that, indeed, the light of the world has come, shining on in the darkness to illumine our lives and lead us forward—not in fear, but in courage—even joy.

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.

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending VU 25

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, 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 all before you, claim the kingdom for your own: O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly! Everlasting Christ, come down.

Lord's Prayer VU 910

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be they name.
They kingdom come, they 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

