

Worship Outline
November 27, 2022
The First Week of Advent: Hope

THIS WEEK AT BRECHIN

Minister: Tif McNaughton

Musician: Tim Weger

Reader: Kathy Torhjem

Greeters/Welcome Table: John & Susan Ward

Welcome and Announcements

Brechin United is an Affirming Congregation, which is a denominational designation, declaring that this is a place where you are loved, in all of who you are, without discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, cultural background, ability, age, or economic circumstance.

Land Acknowledgement

This land on which we gather is the traditional land of the Snuneymuxw people. They have lived and thrived here for thousands of years. We give thanks for the land and its people and we pray that, in our worship and our daily lives, we may honour the traditions and respect that is held for this land.

Advent Candle Lighting

The Christ candle was already lit, here to greet us as we gathered; even as we wait for Christ's arrival, he is with us.

We come to know you, Holy One, as Wisdom Incarnate, as Flickering Flame, as Spirit of Life, as Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, Enfleshed. You come to us as the Stranger, and the Strange. Often we do not recognize you. Sometimes we turn away from your gifts and your demands. Yet you come to us in Wilderness, in the Impossible Made Possible, in Silence and Singing and Sighs Too Deep for Words. You abhor dominance, mastery, fear, and control. You are made known to us in Vulnerability, and Courage, and Divesting from the Powers of Empire. We come to you this Advent in need, with longing, in pain, captive to fear, desiring a more just world, a more livable life for all of us, for the earth, for every living thing caught and held in this inescapable network of mutual interdependence we call this one wild and precious Life. We long for you. We long for healing. We long for liberation. We long for different systems and patterns of relating. And so, this Advent, we pause. We breathe. We pray. We notice. We listen. We dig deep. We reach out. We rise up. We remember. We vision. We sit with the pain. We stay with the trouble. We wait, expectant. We light candles. We open to You, and to one another, and to the Sacred Mystery that is Emmanuel, God-With-Us, Love Incarnate, Divinity Enfleshed.

The Hope of God-With-Us does not come as guaranteed outcome, or predetermined plan, or promise of a happy ending. Hope cannot be imposed from on high. Hope cannot be commanded. The Hope of God-With-Us is courageous, risky, unfolding, indeterminate. The Hope of God-With-Us is collective, liberating us from deadly complacency. Hope is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Hope invites our expectation, and demands our participation. Prepare the way for hope with courage! May Hope be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent. In our searching, may we look high and wide and deep and find Hope shining like a star.

(The Hope Candle is lit)

Amen.

Hymn: VU 7 “Hope is a Star” (Verse 1)

*(Words: Brian Wren 1983; Music: Joan Collier Fogg 1987
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**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.**

Theme Time: Advent Traditions

Scripture: Psalm 122 *With joy to God's House*
Matthew 24:36-44 *No one knows the hour*

Reflection

Hymn: VU 1 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (Verses 1, 2, 4, 6, 7)

*(Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent,
ca. 9th century, trans. John Mason Neale 1851, et al.
Music: 15th century plainsong melody, arr. By Healey William 1880-1968
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**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel
 that mourns in lowly exile here
 until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
 who orders all things mightily;
 to us the path of knowledge show,
 and teach us in her ways to go. R**

**4 O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
 from every foe deliver them
 that trust your mighty power to save,
 and give them victory o'er the grave. R**

**6 O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
 and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight. R**

7 **O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace. R**

Prayers of the People and The Disciple's Prayer
...All this we pray, echoing the prayer Jesus taught to the disciples,

**Mother of us all,
who dwells within and beyond,
Sacred is your name.
May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.
May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection be enfleshed on earth.
Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul, and heart.
Forgive us for the harm we cause as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.
Lead us away from everything that destroys and liberate us from the hands of evil.
For you are the ultimate source of hope.
Your power-with exceeds all power-over.
Your presence incites eternal wonder.
All praise to you, our comfort and strength.
Amen.**

Offering

Offering Hymn: VU 541 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*(Words: Thomas Ken ca 1674
Music: Genevan Psalter 1551
Public Domain)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known,
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Offertory Prayer

Hymn: VU 5 "All Earth is Waiting"

*(Words: Catalanian, Alberto Taulé 1971; English trans. Gertrude C. Suppe 1987, alt.; Music
Albreto Taulé 1972, harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo 1988; Words & music © 1993 Centro de Pastoral
Liturgica. Translation © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
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**1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.**

- 2 **Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'
One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more
 within our hearts.**
- 3 **Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.**
- 4 **In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.**

Benediction

Response: MV 214 "May God's Sheltering Wings"

*(Words & music: Judith Snowdon, 2004
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**May God's sheltering wings,
their gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
their cradling wings sustain you,
And hold you in their love,
and hold you in their love.**

(Interpretation of the Disciple's Prayer: enfleshed.com)