

# Saint Andrew's United Church

*We are called to be the united church. Mission is our home. We foster belonging; provide spiritual accompaniment; and ask the deep questions*

## The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### **WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

++ Please rise in body or spirit

MV = More Voices; VU = Voices United;

TLUS = Then Let Us Sing

### **PRELUDE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GREETING:**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

*We worship on the unceded territory of the Halq'eméylem-speaking peoples.*

### **CANDLE LIGHTING:**

Last week we lit the candle of hope.

On second Sunday of Advent we light the candle of peace.

Peace looks like the sun filtering through green leaves.

Peace sounds like the songs of stars.

Peace smells like the crisp air after newly fallen snow.

Peace tastes like bread shared.

Peace feels like the rough bark of a tree.

What says Peace to you?

*[We invite your silent or spoken responses.]*

*The Candle is lit.*

Written by Emily Gordon, Burningbush Eco-ministry, 2025.

### **CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: "We are Waiting"**

**We are waiting; we are watching.**

**The stars will be our guide.**

**We are list'ning for the calling,  
that wakens all our lives.**

**So this candle burns for Peace;  
it burns for justice and for truth.**

**We are waiting; we are watching for you. (2x)**

### **WE WELCOME EACH OTHER:**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of God has come near." Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him.

**We have heard the call;**

**we come to see this new thing that God is doing.**

### **WE CENTRE IN GOD:**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, O God;

fill us with excitement for this new thing you are doing.

Burn away all that keeps us

from perceiving the advent of your kingdom.

**Send your Holy Spirit upon us, O God;**

**tune our ears to your prophets' call.**

++**HYMN:** VU 18 – "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying"

### **WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD:**

Holy One,

Wonder coming into your world,

**We confess that we are sometimes reluctant  
to come to you with repentance.**

Some of us have heard too much condemnation  
from the Church :

**we rebel and resent when asked to repent,  
or we cannot imagine that you could accept us.**

Some of us have learned that we are only loved  
when we are competent :

**we are afraid to admit mistakes  
or be vulnerable.**

Some of us lack confidence or are told that we take up too much  
space,

**and so we fear to repent because we might  
then be called to change, to grow, to make a difference.**

*[Silent Prayer]*

**AND WE ARE ACCEPTED:**

Beloved of God, beloved of Christ,  
if you are afraid to come to God,  
do not worry, for God is coming to you.  
Let us prepare our hearts to receive our God.

**WE RESPOND:** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**O come, you Splendor very bright,  
as joy that never yields to might.  
O come, and turn all hearts to peace,  
that greed and war at last shall cease.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within  
as Truth to dwell.**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**SCRIPTURE:**      **Reader: Judith Ray**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Ps 72:1-7, 18-19 [VU 790 Pt 1&3]

Mt 3:1-12

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**++HYMN:** MV 142 – “Oh a Song Must Rise”

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE**

**PASSING THE PEACE:**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** TLUS 70 *[Sung]*

**LEGACY GRANT PRESENTATIONS**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:**

Let us present our offering to the work of God.

**++OFFERTORY:** “These Gifts We Bring”

These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,  
to reconcile, make new.  
Gather us in, show us the way,  
to live our lives in Truth;  
to share Your love in all we do.

*The offering is brought forward.*

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:**

Giver of the perfect gift, we place before you our gifts in tribute,  
thanks, and hope for a new tomorrow. May these gifts be used to  
bring peace to a hurting world. May these gifts be used to bring joy  
where sadness reigns. May they inspire peace and hope, bringing  
comfort for all who are in need.

**Bless especially our gifts for White Gift Sunday, given  
so that all may know the joy of this season. For there is  
no gift that is too small when given in your name.**

**++HYMN:** “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

***WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD***

**++COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**EXTROIT:** “Wait for the Lord”

**END OF WORSHIP**

**BEGINNING OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY**



St. Andrew's is a member  
of Affirming United

