



"John the Baptist preaching in the desert" painting by JESUS MAFA, Cameroon, 1973

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
A Service of the Word

7 December 2025 • 10:30 AM

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

"In the gospel reading we hear John the Baptist's harsh words of reproach to the [religious] leaders. He calls them a 'brood of vipers.' The graphic image portrayed is one of snakes fleeing from a ravaging harvest or forest fire. The viper is a symbol of the venom of deceitful, uncharitable, and destructive speech and conduct. But John is not speaking about a viperous individual but of a community or, at least, a group, especially a group with power. ... There are not a few governments today who behave like vipers vis-à-vis the poorer people."

— Josephine Massyngbaerde Ford (1928-2015), English-American Catholic theologian & biblical scholar

# GATHERING 모임

The Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude 전주

Tim Bailey

Prepare the Way: Advent Candle Lighting 찬송

Pastor Youngsun Cheon

Choir: A candle of peace to light our way, with longing hearts, we watch and pray.

Creator of the stars of night; your people's everlasting light. Come, O come, Emmanuel.

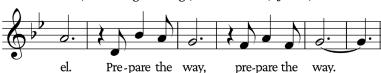


Many:

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Make way for the Prince of



Peace, King of kings, Lord of lords, Je-sus, Em-man-u-



One: Today we light 2 candles: the candle hope and the candle of peace.

the candles are lighted

In this season of Advent we wait for the Prince of Peace, who will come to bring wholeness to a fractured world.

Many: Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.

One: When division and conflict surround us, we turn to Christ, the source of true peace,

and long for his reconciliation in our hearts and in the world.

Many: Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.

One: In our homes, in our communities, and in our nations,

we seek to be instruments of peace, reflecting the love of Christ in all we do.

*Many:* Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.

One: When anger and strife seem overwhelming,

we trust in the calm presence of Christ,

who can still the storms in our hearts and minds.

*Many:* Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.

One: In moments of anxiety, fear, or uncertainty,

we invite the peace of Christ to fill our hearts and guide our actions.

Many: Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.

One: 0 God of peace, we await the coming of your Son,

who will bring peace to all the earth.

We remember that true peace comes not from the absence of conflict,

but from the presence of Christ.

Many: Prepare the way of the Lord with peace.

Choir: Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Many: & Prepare the way of the Lord. Make way for the Prince of Peace,

King of Kings, Lord of lords, Jesus, Emmanuel.

Prepare the way, prepare the way.

# Centring Quiet 집중을 위한 조용한 순간

We together hold an intentional period of quiet, during which worshippers are invited to centre themselves and prepare for the worship of God.

Greeting 인사

The Rev. Matthew Emery

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the

communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day 오늘의 기도

One: Let us pray.

Many: God of the keen blade,

which cuts the roots of arrogant power:

you raise

voices of promise

in the dry lands of our desire,

children of faith

from the stones of the earth. Make us ready to receive the Spirit and the fire of love, wild and fierce and free;

through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

\* Hymn 찬송— "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Voices United #2

Confession and Forgiveness 죄의 고백과 용서 Ross Shearer, diaconal min. stud.

CALL TO CONFESSION 고백으로의 초청

PRAYER OF CONFESSION 죄의 고백

Many: Almighty God,

you who shape out of nothing all that is, forgive us for returning empty-handed.

You who call forth light,

forgive our preference for dwelling in the shadows.

You who inscribe truth,

forgive our occupation with rumour and hearsay, and our acceptance of the stories all-too-convenient for us.

You who send prophets to be voices crying out, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Quiet is kept for personal confession and reflection.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS 용서의 선언

One: ... Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE 평화의 인사
One: 그리스도의 평화가 당신과 함께 하시기를.

Rev. Matt

The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

All are invited to share signs of Christ's peace with those around them.

Words of Welcome & News from Our Life Together 교회소식

Rev. Matt

# WORD 말씀

### God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Anthem — "Noel Peace Canon" arr. by R.E.Schram

The Choir

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Bring us peace this Christmas time.
Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Bring us peace this Christmas time.
The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King who will bring us peace. Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Bring us peace this Christmas time. Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Bring us peace this Christmas time.

Dona nobis pacem, pacem.

### The Early Word 어린이 설교

Ross Shearer, children's ministry leader

ending with The Lord's Prayer 회중기도와 주기도

Many: Our Father, who art in Heaven,

hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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, the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지여, 이름이 거룩히 여김을 받으시오며, 나라이 임하옵시며, 뜻이 하늘에서 이룬 것같이 땅에서도 이루어지이다. 오늘날 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주옵시고, 우리가 우리에게 죄 지은 자를 사하여 준 것같이 우리 죄를 사하여 주옵시고, 우리를 '시험에 들게 하지 마옵시고, 다만 악에서 구하옵소서. 대개 나라와 권세와 영광이 아버지께

영원히 있사옵나이다. 아멘.

Children grades 5 and younger are welcome to go with the leader(s) to Children's Church, in the Lounge on the lower level.

# First Reading 성경봉독 — Isaiah 11:1-10

pew bibles OT p. 640

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

after the reading:

One: Word of God, Word of Life.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 성경봉독 — Matthew 3:1-12

pew bibles NT p. 2

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE after the reading:

One: Word of God, Word of Life.

Many: Thanks be to God.

IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE after the reading:

One: Amen.

Many: Amen.

**Sermon** 설교—"What's the Attraction?"

Rev. Matt

a brief moment of quiet follows the sermon

\* Hymn 찬송—"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Voices United pg. 883



### We begin our lives of responding to the gospel, in prayer and offering

### Responding with our Gifts 봉헌

Pastor Youngsun

### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

Tim Bailey

### **PRAYER REQUESTS** — As the morning offering is collected:

- in-person worshippers can share prayer petitions (thanksgivings and intercessions, joys and concerns) on the purple-topped prayer request cards found in the pew racks and place them the offering plates as they are passed.
- live-via-Zoom online worshippers are welcome to submit prayer petitions (thanksgivings and intercessions, joys and concerns) in the Zoom "chat" feature.



\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION 감사기도

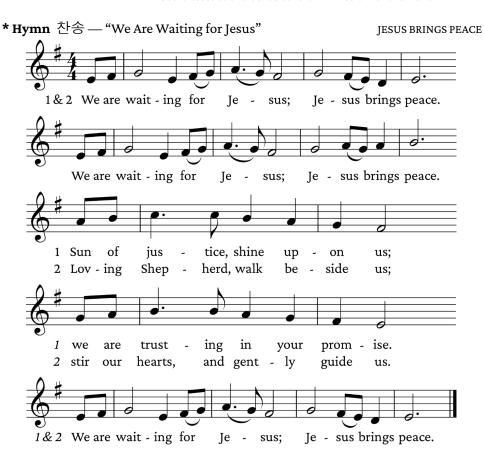
Many: God of all righteousness,
receive these gifts of gratitude,
the offerings of our lives.
Purify them with your refining fire
so that they may serve your purposes
and shine with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Pastor Youngsun

# SENDING 파송

#### God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world



\* Charge and Benediction 파송과 축도

Rev. Matt

\*RESPONSE 파송 찬양—from "My Soul in Stillness Waits"



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

\* Dismissal 예배로 부름

Pastor Youngsun

One: Go in peace. Keep awake. **Many:** Thanks be to God.

\* Postlude 후주

Tim Bailey

**Be Our Guest!** Come on down to the Lower Hall for coffee or tea or another beverage, a bite to eat, and a chat! Access to the Lower Hall is down the stairs outside the door at the front right of the sanctuary or via the elevator at the front left of the sanctuary. Follow the crowds on down, or ask an usher to guide you... We look forward to seeing you!

# Life at Cloverdale United Church

# Worship

Many thanks to today's ...

readers: Neha, Laurel Zulke ushers/greeters: Korean Friends

digital ushers: Glenys McFarlane, Doug Sowerby

fellowship time hosts: Lori Presunka, Maureen Franklin

Many ways to give! We welcome your offering in the way that works for you: by cash or cheque in the offering plates, through automatic monthly gifts via Pre-Authorized Remittance (contact the office to enrol), by free eTransfer from your bank (to cloverdalepastoralcharge@gmail.com), or by credit card via CanadaHelps (service fees apply). Want to give now but don't have cash or cheque? Scan the QR → to be taken to CanadaHelps.



**Children are welcome at all services!** It is important for families to worship together. Don't feel your child must be absolutely quiet or still, for we are glad to have children—and all their wiggles, giggles, and squiggles—as part of our community and worship life! After all... as an

old saying goes, "faith is caught, not taught!" Children are encouraged to stand and sing with the songs, partake in communion, read and pray along when they can, and

join in for the "Early Word"—a time at the front with conversation just for them near the beginning of the service. Most Sundays September through June, we have "Children's Church" activities during the latter two-thirds of the service in the Lounge on the lower level, to which any pre-school through grade 5 aged child is welcome! For those accompanying infants or toddlers who need a spot to 'escape' to during the worship service, feel free to make use of the "Quiet Room" off the side of the sanctuary, near the piano, where there you will find comfortable seating, toys, and a changing table all while being able to hear and see the worship service.



**Recording and streaming in use:** Please note that video cameras and microphones are capturing our worship services, and that the resulting content may be transmitted over Zoom. YouTube, or other platforms.

Likewise, from time to time still photography of our worship services may be taken and used for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence within the sanctuary, you are indicating your consent to the possibility that your likeness may be captured and used in any of these ways. While video capture of congregants in the pews is relatively minimal, if you wish to guarantee you will not ever be depicted on video, the area at the rear centre of the pew seating area is unable to be picked up on camera.



**Washrooms** can be found just outside the sanctuary through the door at the  $\blacksquare$  front right of the space (the northeast corner of the room).



Thank you for silencing cell phones and other devices, and for refraining from flash photography.

#### Acknowledgements:

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#### Learn

Moderator's Advent Message: In her Advent Message, the Right Rev. Kimberley Heath, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, offers a reflection that makes space for all our feelings—the joy, the grief, the hope, and the weariness.

The world feels heavy, but Advent is a season for connection. Drawing on the stories of Mary and Elizabeth, Rev. Heath reminds us that even miracles can

feel complicated. Their bold "yesses" to God's call were mixed with seclusion, whispers, and fear. Yet, their simple connection brought a blessing and multiplied their joy.

How do we get in the spirit of the season amid pain and injustice? We start with connection. This Advent, know this: you are not alone. God is growing a miracle in our midst. The United Church of Canada wishes you a blessed Advent. Find out more about here <a href="https://united-church.ca/news/moderators-advent-message-2025">https://united-church.ca/news/moderators-advent-message-2025</a>.

Broadview Subscription: "Broadview is more than a magazine. It reflects what people of faith can offer Canadians today. Its podcast, Some Women, has already reached over 16,400 downloads—an amazing response. Broadview has a rare capacity to speak to the spiritual, social, and intergenerational needs of both church goers and those with no church connection. People seeking hope, courage, and reconciliation can find it here. Broadview holds treasure." – Mardi Tindal (former moderator)

Broadview is a monthly magazine covering faith, current events, and news from the United Church.

If you are a current subscriber through the CUC group discount and wish to renew, please contact Lily at office@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca

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A yearly subscription is \$30. Payment can be made by e-transfer, cheque, cash. For questions or assistance, please call 604-574-5813.



### Serve

**You Serve with your Stewardship:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13) Let Paul's words be your call not only to find joy and hope, but also to share it with the world—especially those for whom the season brings sadness. That is good stewardship of your Christmas cheer!

### Next Cloverdale Community Kitchen serving Opportunity: December 19 – PLUS Christmas Carolling!

Our congregation, together with our siblings at Northwood United Church in Fleetwood, has a volunteer team that serves monthly at the Community Dinner program at



the Cloverdale Community Kitchen, now part of the Storehouse Community Hub Society (<a href="https://www.storehousesociety.ca/programs/cloverdale-community-kitchen">https://www.storehousesociety.ca/programs/cloverdale-community-kitchen</a>).

We serve on the 3rd Friday of each month, so ur next serving opportunity is coming up **Friday**, **December 19**.

To volunteer, simply show up today around 4:00 pm (4 to 4:30 arrival is OK) to the Pacific Community Church building (5337 180 Street, Surrey, BC V3S 4K5) to begin meal preparation and setup. Volunteers typically finish up with the post-meal clean-up by between 7:30 and 8:00 pm.

And... if you want to keep informed on an ongoing basis about this great opportunity to express your discipleship to Jesus in a concrete, hands-on ministry of mercy-making and service, just email Bev Woods (a congregant at Northwood) at <a href="woodsb@hotmail.com">woodsb@hotmail.com</a> and she'll add you to the email list. Each time we serve, the crew for that particular night is made of up a different subset of the larger team list, based on who's available and interested for that date... don't shy away even if you only want to try it out once!

IN ADDITION, for this month's dinner, we are inviting everyone to come along on that evening to join us in a Christmas carol sing along. The folks from Northwood will bring song sheets to share... we just need willing singers to show up! The doors will open a bit early, at 5:30pm, so the guests can come in for a beverage and some entertainment before their dinner at 6 pm, and we'll plan to sing until about 6:30 pm while guests and kitchen helpers enjoy their meal. Singers, too, can then have a meal themselves. Even if you are not able to join us for the regular 4 pm to 8 pm meal prep and clean up, please plan to join us for the Christmas carol sing along (please arrive by 5:30 pm if possible)! Questions? Contact Bev Woods (woodsb@hotmail.com).



**Christmas Hamper Donations:** We are once again supporting the Cloverdale Community Kitchen in its extensive effort to provide approximately 1,200 hampers to community members in need.

Hamper donation boxes will be available for donation at the front and side entrances of the church **until December 14**.

As we also support families within our own congregation, we encourage monetary donations to our Hamper Fund. This allows us to make a combined financial contribution and ensure all needs are met.

Thank you for helping us share care and compassion this Christmas season.



### Meet

CUC Christmas Potluck
Dinner: Join us for a joyful
Christmas Dinner at Cloverdale
United Church on Saturday,

December 13th at 5:00 PM!

We'll gather for a potluck dinner, sing Christmas songs together, and enjoy a fun gift exchange.

Everyone is welcome!



What to Bring: A dish to share for the potluck and a family gift (around \$30 value) for the gift exchange

If you have any questions, please contact **Chohee Won** at <a href="mailto:chohee@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca">chohee@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca</a>. Come celebrate the season with good food, music, and community. We can't wait to see you there!

# **Pray**

New this week...

- God of grace and courage, we lift up to you all those facing the scourge of addiction, in all its forms. Pour out your power and help them join with you in breaking the bonds that keep them captive.
- We give you thanks, O God, for the witness to Christ made through the
  peoples and ministries of First Community in Salmon Arm, Marpole United
  Church in Vancouver, McBride Anglican-United Church, Mount Seymour
  United Church in North Vancouver, Mountain View United Church in
  Hazelton, and Mt. Lehman United Church in Abbotsford (from The United
  Church's regional council prayer cycles).
- For the nations and peoples of **Myanmar** and **Thailand**. We give you thanks, O God, for: the beauty of these countries and their people, and their many distinctive Buddhist temples; those who long have struggled that these countries might become more democratic; the faithful witness of churches, which have advocated with others for greater justice; efforts to protect the environment and resources in these countries. And we pray to you, O God, for: minority ethnic and religious groups who continue to experience discrimination, persecution or even genocide (such as the Rohingyas), and for greater interfaith understanding and tolerance for ethnic and religious diversity; those victimized by sex tourism and exploitation, and those who perpetuate such acts; political stability and progress toward democratic rule; economic justice for all people, and environmental protection, as these countries undergo development. (from the World Council of Churches' prayer cycle)

### Ongoing...

- We thank you, God, for the strengthening in body, mind, and spirit that has
  been at work in J., the neighbourhood secondary student who had transplant
  surgery earlier this fall, and ask you to continue to hold J.'s family in a difficult
  journey.
- Good Lord, thank you for the gift of the life of **Carrie**, sister of Trixie, who died November 12th, and hold Trixie and the rest of Carrie's family in your peace that surpasses all understanding.
- Bring healing, Holy One, upon **Donna** as she recovers from shoulder surgery following a trip-and-fall accident, and give her patience and peace in the waiting.
- Surround John with your presence and your power of healing, good Lord, as
  he journeys in Surrey Memorial Hospital through treatments for his spine and
  other health challenges, and pour out your peace within Pat as she walks
  alongside him.
- Bring help and hope, O God, to all **those facing food insecurity**.
- Hold in your heart, O God, all those journeying with dementia,
   Alzheimer's, and other forms of cognitive decline, and pour strength into those who find themselves as caregivers.
- Lift up, defend, protect, and comfort the people of **Gaza**, good Lord, as they continue facing the violence, starvation, and devastation that has been wrought upon them.
- For those of our congregation who are homebound, incarcerated, in long-term nursing care, or otherwise unable to be with us regularly, including: **Roger**, **Lorraine**, **Pauline**, **Eileen**, **Joyce**, **Gerrit**, **Brenda**, and **Roy**.

Additions to the prayer list are always welcome! Submissions received in the office by 9:00 am Thursday morning will appear in the bulletin. Petitions regarding specific individuals or circumstances will only be retained on the prayer list for 3 weeks at a time (but can be renewed if changes in the situation warrant).

### Other news and notes

Classic Holiday Party at MLA Sturko's Constituency Office: CUC Adherent Elenore Sturko, currently serving as the Member of the BC Legislative Assembly for Surrey-Cloverdale, invites all congregants and friends of the congregation to a Holiday Classic Office Party on Friday, December 12th, from 4-7



pm at the MLA Constituency Office in Cloverdale (104 – 17610 65A Ave., Surrey). This is a non-partisan event, in MLA Sturko's role as the MLA called to represent all residents of our electoral district as her constituents. Attendees are invited to bring a cash or food donation for Storehouse Community Hub Society, which does wonderful work in our community (Storehouse Society is the new name for the Cloverdale Community Kitchen organization, chosen to better represent the multiplicity of ministries carried out under their umbrella). The event is FREE, and ALL are welcome... registration is requested at <a href="https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-mla-elenore-sturko-classic-holiday-office-party-tickets-1936792752259">https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-mla-elenore-sturko-classic-holiday-office-party-tickets-1936792752259</a>

# God's Mission, Our Gifts

# Gifts with Joy, Gifts with Hope, Gifts with Vision:

December always seems to arrive in a blink, doesn't it? Some are already checking off shopping lists, and others are thinking about starting. Wherever you fall, Gifts with



Vision (<a href="https://giftswithvision.ca/">https://giftswithvision.ca/</a>) can make your Christmas giving simple and meaningful.

With Gifts with Vision, there's no wrapping, no shipping deadlines, and no frantic mall searches. Instead, you can choose a gift that truly matters. Every gift supports communities across Canada and around the world—addressing poverty and hunger, strengthening education, supporting healing and reconciliation, and more. There's something thoughtful for everyone on your list.

Each Gift with Vision connects directly to a Mission and Service project that relies on the generosity of people like you. Your gift becomes part of real change and real hope for people who need it.

As you settle into the season, whether you're a planner or a last-minute shopper, consider a gift that gives back. Gifts with Vision is just a click away.

elcome to Cloverdale United Church!
As we say at nearly every worship service,
"No matter who you are, or where you are
on life's journey God welcomes you... and so do we."
We take these words seriously. We strive to be a
community as diverse and hospitable as God's
kingdom. We don't all look or act alike; God knows we



don't all think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We come from different religious backgrounds, we bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we gather and worship God together as one.

In this lovely old church, we do Sunday morning in some fairly traditional ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We gather around the waters of grace and the feast table of Christ, just as Christians have done for nearly two thousand years. Some of the songs we sing (certainly not *all* of them, though) are ones our grandparents might also have sung in their day. And yet, amidst rituals and rites rooting us in a deep heritage, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world and we listen for God's Spirit still speaking into our lives today. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

After the service, please stick around. Have a cup of coffee or a bite to eat with us. Introduce yourself to other worshippers or our pastor. There are plenty of opportunities here to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you just might be home!

We are a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community, reaching out from the historic heart of Surrey at Cloverdale since 1875. We seek to thrive in faith through relationship with God, one another, and the community.... to serve others as Jesus would.

Cloverdale United Church recognizes that we worship, live, work, and play in traditional and unceded territories of Coast Salish peoples: primarily the Katzie, the Kwantlen, the Semiahmoo, the Snokomish, the Stolo, the Tsawwassen, and the Wsanec. We give our thanks to them and for them; we offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred in this land. We seek to live with respect in this piece of Creation; we seek peace and justice among all who have called this land home.

### **CLOVERDALE UNITED CHURCH**

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Director of Music Ministries
Office Administrator
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Director of Music Ministries
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