



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

CLOVERDALE  
UNITED CHURCH



*"The Days Are Surely Coming"*  
painting by Mike Moyers, 2012

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**A Service of the Word: Cantata Sunday**

14 December 2025 • 10:30 AM

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Cantata Sunday

“Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.”

— Isaiah 45:8, as used for the refrain of the “Advent Prose” (Rorate caeli desuper...), a traditional Latin prayer text for the season of Advent attributed to Prudentius, AD 348 – c. 415, a Christian poet from the Iberian peninsula (modern-day Spain & Portugal)

### 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 Ross Shearer, diaconal min. stud.

Choir: ♪ A candle of joy 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 -



el. Pre-prepare the way, pre-prepare the way.

One: Continuing our Advent journey, today, we light the third candle:  
the light of the candle representing joy joins with the fires  
burning for hope and peace.

*the candles are lighted*

We celebrate the coming of the one who brings great joy to the world.

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

One: In the midst of waiting, we remember that joy is found  
not in what we have, but in who we welcome—  
the Saviour, our true joy.

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

One: When the world feels heavy, we choose to lift our hearts in joy,  
knowing that God’s presence with us  
brings light into the darkest places.

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

*One:* We celebrate the good news that Christ is near,  
and with his coming, joy is made complete  
in our hearts and in our lives.

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

*One:* In times of sorrow, we cling to the joy  
that is rooted in the hope of Christ,  
a joy that cannot be taken away.

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

*One:* O God, we open our hearts to the joy of your presence  
and prepare to welcome Christ, the greatest gift of all.  
May the joy of Christ fill our homes, our communities, and our world  
as we await his coming in glory.

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

*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:** Lord of hope,  
as night workers long for the sunrise,  
we long for the coming of Christ.  
In our worship today we yearn for your Spirit  
to give us a glimpse of your glory,  
that one day we will see in full,  
when all will be made new,  
through Christ, our Lord, our light. Amen.

### \* Hymn 찬송 — “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

*Voices United pg. 882*

### Confession and Forgiveness 죄의 고백과 용서

*Pastor Youngsun Cheon*

**CALL TO CONFESSION** 고백으로의 초청

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** 죄의 고백

**Many:** O God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you.  
 Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force;  
 how difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your rule  
 which comes slowly through love.  
 We admit that,  
 while we claim to desire your reign of peace and justice,  
 we still take part in the ways of war, hatred, and injustice.  
 We leave little room for you to act in our lives.  
 We turn now to you in repentance  
 and openness to your Spirit.  
 Forgive us, and show us how to clear a path for you.  
 Come to us yet again, dear Lord,  
 and reveal your reign:  
 in us and throughout your world. Amen.

*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.  
 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** 교회 소식

*Rev. Matt*

## WORD 말씀

**God speaks to us in story, reflection, and song**

**The Early Word** 어린이 설교

*Rev. Matt*

*Children and youth of all ages are invited to stay for the Cantata presentation.  
 However, an alternate activity in the Lounge on the lower level  
 is available with our Children's Ministry leader  
 for any young journeyers who may need it.*

**The Word in Story and Song: A Cantata**

***Behold the Star! A Christmas Journey to the Light of Christ***

Words and music by Lloyd Larson

Sung by the combined choirs of

Cloverdale United Church and the United Churches of Langley

Choral direction by Sharon Lauze (UCoL)

Accompaniment by Tim Bailey (CUC)

Narrators: Trixie Martyn and Christine Connal

## I. Light of the World

Light of the world, come live among us, our spirits long to be free.  
Love's pure light, the hope of the ages, we yearn for the day we shall see  
Emmanuel, born to dwell in love, God's gift to the world.  
Author of life, come end our strife, we yearn for You, Holy Lord.  
Come now, O Light of the world!  
The people who walk in the darkness, they shall see a great light!  
The people who walk in the darkness on them a light shall shine!  
Those who live in the shadow of death shall be filled with joy!  
And unto them shall a child be born, heaven's gift a baby Boy.  
The people who walk in the dark, they shall see a great light!  
The people who walk in the dark, a light shall shine!  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Living Father, Prince of Peace!  
And He shall rule over David's throne, and His reign shall never cease,  
His reign shall never cease. Come now, O Light of the world.

### *Narration*

## II. Do Not Be Afraid

Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.  
For you have found favor with God, and you shall bear a Son!  
Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid.  
This Child shall be the royal Son of the Most High God!  
How can this be, for I'm a maiden? How can I bear God's holy Son?  
The pow'r of God shall come upon you, Mary. Nothing is impossible for God!  
I am not afraid, I'm not afraid. I've found favor with God, and I shall bear a Son!  
Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. This Child shall be the royal Son of the Most High God!  
Messiah King, the royal Son of the Most High God!

### *Narration*

## III. O Holy Night

*incorporating music by Adophe Adam*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! Sing "Gloria!" Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria!  
Sing "Gloria!" to God on high. Praise God who reigns on high.  
O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O holy night when Christ was born!  
Fall, come now and fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night, O night divine, O holy night, O night when Christ was born!  
The stars are brightly shining on this night! The King of kings has come to earth this night!  
Emmanuel is born this holy night.

### *Narration*

## IV. Shepherds, Leave Your Flocks

*incorporating the trad. French carol "Pat-a-Pan"*

Shepherds, leave your flocks this night,  
hurry now to Bethlehem, for Messiah has been born.  
Celebrate His birth: Savior come to earth, heaven's gift,  
God's holy light! Christ is born this night!  
So they left their flocks behind and they ran to Bethlehem.  
There they found the holy Child in a manger stall,  
Savior, Lord of all, gift to all the world, the Babe, the holy Lord!  
Glory to God in the highest! Sing your praise, lift your voice!  
Glory to God, for the Lord has come. Let all heav'n and earth rejoice!  
As they left the manger bed in the town of Bethlehem,  
They rejoiced in what they'd seen: Messiah had been born on this Christmas morn.

Praise the Lord who reigns on high! Christ has come to bring us life!  
Shepherds, leave your flocks this night, hurry now to Bethlehem!

### *Narration*

V. See Amid the Winter's Snow *incorporating music by John Goss  
and excerpts of the carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" by John F. Wade*

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below;  
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.  
Hail O blessed Christmas morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
There, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in heav'n sublime, sits amid the cherubim.  
Hail, O blessed Christmas morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Tiny Infant, gift divine, Light of God, forever shines!  
Morning Star, hope of the world, we adore You, Holy Lord!  
Hail, O blessed Christmas morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Christ is born in Bethlehem.

### *Narration*

VI. Behold that Star! *incorporating music by Thomas W. Talley  
and excerpts of the carol "We Three Kings" by John H. Hopkins Jr.*

Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder!  
Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.  
A star shines brightly in the night, it is the star of Bethlehem.  
A sign from God, a glorious sight! It is the star of Bethlehem.  
Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder!  
Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.  
The Wise Men travel from the East. It is the star of Bethlehem.  
They worship Him, the Prince of Peace. It is the star of Bethlehem.  
They kneel and offer treasures rare. It is the star of Bethlehem.  
God's gift of love beyond compare!  
It's the star, it is the star, it is the star of Bethlehem.  
Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder!  
Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.

### *Narration*

VII. The Star Still Shines *incorporating the traditional English carol "Sussex Carol"  
and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" by Charles Wesley & Felix Mendelssohn*

Rejoice, give thanks in joyous praise, lift up your voice and sing.  
The prophecies have been fulfilled in Christ, the newborn King!  
The star that sone o'er Bethlehem so many years ago still shines today to light the way.  
Come, worship Christ, the Lord!  
On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring;  
on Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring;  
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.  
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;  
all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen."

*Then, all are invited to join in singing when cued:*



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King,  
Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer-cy mild, God and sin - ners rec-on - ciled!"  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na-tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us se-cond birth.



Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

## RESPONSE 응답

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

### The Prayers of the People

Rev. Matt

ending with **The Lord's Prayer** 회중기도와 주기도

<p><b>Many:</b> 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,</p>	<p>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</p>
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for Thine is the Kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

영광이 아버지께 영원히  
있사옵나이다. 아멘.

Responding with our Gifts 봉헌

Pastor Youngsun

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Tim Bailey

\* PRESENTING OUR GIFTS 경배 찬양 — fr. “On Jordan’s Banks” Voices United #20

5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose  
ad-vent has our free - dom won; and praise to God whom  
we a - dore, with Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won; and praise to God whom we adore, with Holy Spirit ever more." The score ends with a double bar line.

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION 감사기도

**Many:** O Mighty One, you have done, and are doing,  
and—we trust—will still yet do

great things for us, and holy is your name.

Bless all all we offer you—

ourselves, our time, and our possessions—

that through us your grace and favour

may be made known to and in all the world,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

# SENDING 파송

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

\* Hymn 찬송 — “For You, O Lord, My Soul in Still...” MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS



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



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,  
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spr - its;  
 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,  
 6 Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the heav - ens,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the  
 our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your word; come, make us  
 and in your ad - vent, draw us all to you, our hope re-  
 Cre - a - tor of the moun-tains and the seas, Lord of the



hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.  
 whole, be com-fort to our hearts.  
 born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
 stars, and pres-ent to us now.

\* Charge and Benediction 파송과 축도

Rev. Matt

\* RESPONSE 파송 찬양 — refrain 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.

**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 ...**

**ushers/greeters:** *names unavailable at the time of printing*

**digital ushers:** Glenys McFarlane, Ben Son

**fellowship time hosts:** *names unavailable at the time of printing*

**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](mailto: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 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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**About today’s cover art:** *The Days Are Surely Coming*, painting by Mike Moyers, 2012. The artist writes, “An abstract depicting Advent prophecy fulfillment and promises kept. The ring with the blue pattern also alludes to a robe and crown for the coming Messiah.”

**Advent Prayer Service in the style of Taizé:** *Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 7:00 pm, at Precious Blood Roman Catholic Church*

Our neighbours and siblings-in-Christ at nearby Precious Blood Roman Catholic Church (17475 59 Ave, Surrey BC V3S 1P3... just down 59 Avenue from our own parking lot entrance, to the west of the Cloverdale Catholic School) have invited us any any interested members of the community to join them for an Advent Prayer Service in the style of Taizé this Sunday evening beginning at 7:00 pm. Take a quiet break from the busyness of the season with this time for contemplation, meditation, and worship, with songs, a psalm, a Bible reading, silence, and intercessions.

Taizé is an ecumenical Christian monastic community in France that attracts over 100,000 young people each year for prayer, Bible study, communal work, and shared reflection. Central to its contemplative atmosphere are simple, meditative chants that support prayer and silence, and worship services making use of this music and other worship practices from the Taizé community are conducted churches—both Catholic and Protestant—all around the world.

This offering from our friends at Precious Blood Church could be a rich part of your contemplation and reflection in this season... don’t miss out!



## Learn

**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](mailto:office@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca)

If you would like to start a new subscription, please also contact Lily.

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



## Serve

**You Serve with your Stewardship:** *“You must also be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.”* (James 5:8) Patience is good stewardship! We know that Jesus is coming, not only in our celebration of Christmas, but also in the “kin-dom” of God both now and forever.

**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

(<https://www.storehousesociety.ca/programs/cloverdale-community-kitchen>).

We serve on the 3rd Friday of each month, so our 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 [woodsbb@hotmail.com](mailto:woodsbb@hotmail.com) 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 ([woods@hotmail.com](mailto:woods@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 today, 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.



## Pray

*New this week...*

- God of all truth, we give you thanks for the courageous and sobering witness of the **Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada**, released 10 years ago this week. Continue to open our ears and our hearts to the truths it tells, lest we forget. Continue to open our lives and our ways of being to the new paths it calls for. Give us new courage to continue on those paths, or to start on those we've yet to embark upon.
- We give you thanks, O God, for our **lives** and for our **families**.
- We lift into your light, O God, **Priscilla**, who is having surgery for breast cancer, and for her family journeying alongside her; heal her body, guard her spirit, and give all of them strength, courage, and patience, we pray.
- We give you thanks, O God, for the witness to Christ made through the peoples and ministries of **Oasis** United Church in Penticton, **Naramata** Community Church (United-Anglican), the **Naramata Centre**, **Nelson** United Church, **North Lonsdale** United Church in North Vancouver, **Northwood** United Church in Surrey, and **Oak Bay** United Church in Victoria (*from The United Church's regional council prayer cycles*).
- For the nations and peoples of **Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam**. *We give you*

*thanks, O God, for:* those who have remained in these countries through years of conflict and oppression; Christians who bear witness in the region even though they are small in number; the many who have provided for humanitarian assistance and peace-building; refugees from these countries who are enriching the societies in which they now have made their home. *And we pray to you, O God, for:* those who continue to bear physical and emotional scars from years of conflict; victims of monsoons and other disasters in the region; economic development to improve life for all people and the environment; political stability amid competing powers. (from the World Council of Churches' prayer cycle)

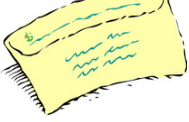
*Ongoing...*

- 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 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.
- 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

### Offering Envelopes



**Offering Envelopes:** The offering envelopes for 2026 will be available for pick up in the narthex. If you would like to opt in on the envelopes, please speak with Judy Cook. The envelopes will prevent weekly tax receipts from being mailed to you. Instead, you will receive one receipt at the end of the year for income tax purposes.

## God's Mission, Our Gifts

**Strengthening Communities:** During the 2025 federal budget announcement, Prime Minister Mark Carney delighted many by highlighting a Mission and Service partner: Bissell Centre in Edmonton.

Introducing the new *Build Communities Strong Fund*, he said, “We’ll build Canada strong with projects that build our communities strong,” naming Bissell Centre’s work to reduce homelessness as an example of the kind of impact this new investment hopes to strengthen.

Bissell Centre is a trusted community anchor in Edmonton’s inner city. Their programs meet people where they are—with supports that help people stay safely housed, employment programs that open doors to long-term stability, community meals that offer dignity and connection, and family supports that ensure children and parents have the care they need. At every step, Bissell walks with people through some of the hardest moments of their lives and helps them build a path toward thriving.

While Bissell Centre’s roots go back more than a century, their mission today is urgent and forward-looking: reducing poverty, preventing homelessness, and creating a community where everyone belongs. Their approach is practical, compassionate, and deeply responsive to local needs.

Being included in the early list of projects for the federal Build Communities Strong Fund highlights how trusted and effective Bissell Centre’s work has become. National leaders are taking notice, but the real transformation happens one person, one story, one act of support at a time.

Mission and Service gifts help make this partnership possible. Thank you for supporting ministries that meet people with compassion and help build stronger communities every day.

Congratulations to the Bissell Centre for their important work and community connections!



# WELCOME 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*

Dr. Emma Rui-Xuan Shi (*on maternity leave*)

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