



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

CLOVERDALE  
UNITED CHURCH



*"Flight into Egypt"*  
painting by JESUS MAFA, 1973

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**  
**A Service of Lessons & Carols**

28 December 2025 • 10:30 AM

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas: A Service of Lessons & Carols

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

### GATHERING 모임

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

**Prelude 전주**

*Tim Bailey*

**\* Entrance Hymn 찬송** — “Once in Royal David's City”

*Voices United #62 – vv. 1,2,4*

**\* Greeting 인사**

*Pastor Youngsun Cheon*

*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.**

**\* Acclamations 예배로 부름**

*Ross Shearer, diaconal min. stud.*

*One:* An ancient promise is coming true

**Many: God's love lasts for ever**

*One:* A secret mystery is being revealed

**Many: God's love lasts for ever**

*One:* A little child will soon be born

**Many: God's love lasts for ever**

*One:* God of promise, God of wisdom

**Many: We will wait with you**

*One:* God of justice, God of integrity

**Many: We will walk with you**

*One:* God of mystery, God of glory

**Many: We will laugh with you**

**\* Bidding Prayer 청원 기도**

*Pastor Youngsun Cheon*

Beloved in Christ, it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us hear again from the holy scriptures the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to

*In the ways we are able—in body or in spirit—we rise for those parts marked with an asterisk “\*”*

him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people: for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

Let us pray for expectant parents, as new life grows within, holding before God their hopes and fears, the anticipation of pain, and the expectation of joy. Let us think especially of those who have not chosen their state, wondering how they will cope, unsure about the reaction of family and friends, wondering about the part they should play, fearing responsibility and commitment, tempted to run away.

Let us pray for those who cannot have children, to whom the story of Mary's cousins Elizabeth and Zechariah must seem at once hopeful, far-fetched, and frustrating.

Let us pray for the mighty who have fallen, those who have had power wrenched from them, whether through democratic or violent means; those who have lost wealth, whether through bad judgment or failed enterprise; those whose pride has been dented, whether in public or private.

And giving thanks for those whose lives have changed for the better, let us pray for those who still need to be lifted up, who are hungry and need good things, for those who are denied basic freedoms, housing, healthcare, and education.

Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us:

<b>Many:</b>	<b>Our Father, who art in Heaven,</b>	하늘에 계신 우리 아버지여,
	<b>hallowed be thy name,</b>	이름이 거룩히 여김을
	<b>thy kingdom come,</b>	받으시옵며, 나라이 임하옵시며,
	<b>thy will be done</b>	뜻이 하늘에서 이룬 것같이
	<b>on earth as it is in heaven.</b>	땅에서도 이루어지이다. 오늘날
	<b>Give us this day our daily bread,</b>	우리에게 일용할 양식을
	<b>and forgive us our trespasses</b>	주옵시고, 우리가 우리에게 죄
	<b>as we forgive those</b>	지은 자를 사하여 준 것같이 우리
	<b>who trespass against us.</b>	죄를 사하여 주옵시고, 우리를
	<b>And lead us not into temptation,</b>	시험에 들게 하지 마옵시고,
	<b>but deliver us from evil,</b>	다만 악에서 구하옵소서. 대개
	<b>for Thine is the Kingdom,</b>	나라와 권세와 영광이 아버지께
	<b>the power, and the glory,</b>	영원히 있사옵나이다. 아멘.
	<b>for ever and ever. Amen.</b>	

**Words of Welcome & News from Our Life Together** 교회소식

## THE FIRST LESSON • GENESIS 3:8-15, 17-19

### *Adam and Eve disobey God*

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,  
cursed are you among all animals  
and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”

And to the man he said,  
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,  
and have eaten of the tree  
about which I commanded you,  
‘You shall not eat of it,’  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread  
until you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.”

\* Hymn 찬송 — “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Voices United #64— vv. 1, 3

## THE SECOND LESSON • GENESIS 22:15-18

### *God's promise to Abraham*

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

\* Hymn 찬송 — "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Voices United #1 – vv. 1, 3

## THE THIRD LESSON • ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

### *A great light in the darkness*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

\* Hymn 찬송 — "It came Upon the Midnight Clear" Voices United #44– vv. 1, 2, 4

## THE FOURTH LESSON • ISAIAH 11:1-4A, 6-9

### *A little Child will lead them*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

\* **Hymn** 찬송 — “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

*Voices United #8*

## THE FIFTH LESSON • LUKE 1:26-35, 38

### *An angel appears to Mary*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

\* **Hymn** 찬송 — “My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning)” *More Voices #120*

## THE SIXTH LESSON • LUKE 2:1-7

### *Mary gives birth in Bethlehem*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

\* Hymn 찬송 — “Away in a Manger”

Voices United #69— vv. 1, 3

## THE SEVENTH LESSON • LUKE 2:8-16

### *Angels announce the Messiah*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

\* Hymn 찬송 — “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Voices United #38— vv. 1, 2

## THE EIGHTH LESSON • MATTHEW 2:1-11

### *Magi come from the East*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the

prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

\* **Hymn** 찬송 — “In the Bleak Midwinter”

*Voices United #55—vv. 1, 2,4*

## THE NINETH LESSON • JOHN 1:1-14

*And the Word became flesh*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

\* **Hymn** 찬송 — “Hark, The Herald Angels Sing”

*Voices United #48*



# RESPONSE 응답

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

## Responding with our Gifts 봉헌

### 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.

\* **PRESENTING OUR GIFTS** 경배 찬양 — “Angel from the Realms of Glory”

Voices United #36 – vv. 1

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** 감사기도

**Many:** In this gifting season, O God,  
we are grateful for the gift of your dear Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Receive, we pray, these offerings we bring.  
May they be used in the service  
of your grace and truth  
Dwelling among us.  
In Christ’s holy name we pray. Amen.

## SENDING 파송

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

\* **Hymn** 찬송 — “Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Voices United #43

\* **Charge and Benediction** 파송과 축도

Pastor Youngsun Cheon

\* **RESPONSE** 파송 찬양 — from “The First Nowell” **Voices United #91 – Refr.**  
**Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell: Born is the King of Israel.**

\* **Dismissal** 예배로 부름

**One:** Glory to God in the highest!  
Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.

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

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

**digital ushers:** Daniel Ariss, Doug Sowerby

**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:**
- Cover art from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tennessee; <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57064>; used by permission (CC BY 2.5).
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**Learn**

**The Moderator's New Year's Address!**  
Start the year off right! On **January 6th, 2026, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. ET**, join The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath, Moderator, for a transformative New Year's address.

**The theme is Epiphany.**  
Executive Minister Jennifer Henry and the Growth team, including Rev. Cameron Fraser (Director of Growth and Ministry Development), and Emo Yango (Growth Coordinator), will offer insights into Toward 2035 and introduce new Communities of Faith. This event is live interpreted. Register here: <https://united-church.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8&id=7f31f8b4b6&e=a9b6564194>

Join the Conversation

online

# Epiphany: The Moderator's New Year's Address

Tuesday, January 6, 6-8 p.m. ET



with Moderator Kimberly Heath  
Special guests: Growth team and church plant leaders



The United Church of Canada

**Meet**

**Prayer Circle:** Ross Shearer invites you to participate in the Prayer Circle in the coming New Year, beginning January 6, meeting every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

This gathering offers a quiet and reflective space for mindfulness, prayer, and the study of scripture, with an opportunity to thoughtfully explore its meaning and relevance in our lives. This Prayer Circle is part of Ross Shearer's field placement project, and all are warmly encouraged to attend.

## Prayer Circle

In the Lounge

Starting January 6th  
Tuesdays  
4pm



Mindfulness Together

**You Serve with your Stewardship:** “*But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.*” (Luke 2:19) The Messiah is born, so let us celebrate! Long after the presents have been opened and the decorations packed away, the amazing gift of Jesus remains. Let us ponder the story in our hearts and share this very good news wherever we go.

**The season of Christmas is here:** a season of joy and gratitude, of reflection on what's truly important, and of generosity and giving. Our Truest Lover—the God who creates and redeems and sustains us all—has given us far more than just calling birds, french hens, or turtle doves. In particular here at Cloverdale United Church, we know that God has given us a joyful, wondrous, and transformative part in God's mission to this community and to all the world. As the end of the calendar year—and, thus, the tax year—approaches, prayerfully consider whether you may be hearing the call to make Cloverdale United Church a special part of your end-of-the-year giving. Perhaps you might think about a special end-of-the-year gift to CUC in one of these ways:

- a contribution to the *Hamper & Assistance Fund*, which is the fund we use for our in-house Christmas-time hampers and for contributing toward the community-wide Cloverdale Christmas Hamper Program. This fund *also* supports CUC being able to provide grocery assistance gift cards and other crisis assistance, as needs arise throughout the year.
- an extra, one-time *unrestricted/undesignated gift*, (i.e., a general offering), which helps support the breadth of our ongoing life and ministry as a congregation.

You can make a contribution to CUC in any of these ways:

- bringing your *cheque* or *cash* to the Sunday offering plate or mail to the church office during the week;
- via free *eTransfer* from your bank account, to [cloverdalepastoralcharge@gmail.com](mailto:cloverdalepastoralcharge@gmail.com)
- via a credit or debit card through our CanadaHelps page: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47707?v1=true> (please note that service charges do apply).
- We're also more than happy to talk with you about *gifts of securities* or other assets, as well as leaving a legacy through a *bequest* to CUC in your will. Contact the church office for more info...

*To make an end-of-year gift, please make sure the church office receives your donation on or before December 31st.* If you intend to make a contribution other than an unrestricted/undesignated gift, please clearly indicate it with your contribution (anything without clear indication will be assumed to be an unrestricted gift). For further information on charitable giving as relates to your taxes, please visit the CRA Charities & Giving website: [www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/charities.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/charities.html)



## Pray

### *New this week...*

- Strengthen and sustain **Estelita**, sister-in-law of Glenys, merciful One, as she undergoes chemotherapy for cancer.
- Bring healing and life to **Miguel**, gracious God, the local community member and frequent Cloverdale Community Kitchen guest recently struck by a bus as a pedestrian along Highway 10.
- We pray, O God, for **Malika**, friend of Michelle, recently diagnosed with cancer in her stomach and lymph nodes and undergoing chemotherapy.
- Continue to strengthen and heal **Gurpal**, husband of Michelle, as he continues to recover from surgery to remove a cancerous kidney.
- **For the coming new year**, that it might bring health and happiness and that we all might be reminded anew of our responsibilities in the world (*from The United Church's regional council prayer cycles*).
- For the nations and peoples of **Japan**, **North Korea**, and **South Korea**. *We give you thanks, O God, for:* the distinctive temples, art and cultures in the region; the education and economic developments that have improved the lives of many in Japan and South Korea; how the council of churches in Japan has promoted reconciliation with the rest of Asia; the prophetic witness of Christians in Japan and South Korea; the persistent witness to justice for “comfort women” from the Second World War; the Ecumenical Forum for Peace, Reunification and Development Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula, which with others has sought to reunify Korea, to defend human rights, and to work for peace and justice... *And we pray to you, O God, for:* an end to repression of people and to threats of military confrontation, especially on the Korean peninsula; the reunification of Korea, that peace and justice might prevail; women and other marginalized groups, and the inequalities they experience; greater acceptance of immigrants that they might make a positive contribution; new hope and meaning for the young, amid pressures of competition and consumerism. (*from the World Council of Churches' prayer cycle*)

### *Ongoing...*

- God of life and hope, console all who are mourning in the wake of the hate-motivated **shootings at Bondi Beach** in Sydney, Australia, comforting them with your presence and strengthening them to face the journey of grief still in front of them. For those overwhelmed by fear, especially members of the Jewish community all around the world, grant your peace and the assurance of community solidarity, we pray. Help all of us resist the forces that exploit, dehumanize, and marginalize, and to seek to combat hate and overcome violence through fierce love.
- Pour out, dear Lord, your strength and healing on **Sue**, a friend of Laurel recently diagnosed with bladder and kidney cancer and preparing for surgery in January to remove one kidney.
- We lift into your light, O God, **Priscilla**, who has just had surgery for breast

cancer, and for her family journeying alongside her, including mother Dorothy; heal her body, guard her spirit, and give all of them strength, courage, and patience, we pray.

- 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.
- 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).*

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## Other news and notes

**Staff Doings:** Please note that...

- Our lead minister, Rev. Matthew Emery, will be on vacation (and out of the province) beginning tomorrow, December 25, through Friday, January 2. He will be back to preach and lead worship on Sunday, January 4. While Rev. Matt is away, our associate minister, Pastor Youngsun Cheon, will be available for any pastoral emergencies or other matters; Pastor Youngsun can be reached at [youngsun@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca](mailto:youngsun@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca) or on his cell phone at 604-767-3517.
- The church office will be closed on Thursday, January 1, for the New Year's Day holiday.



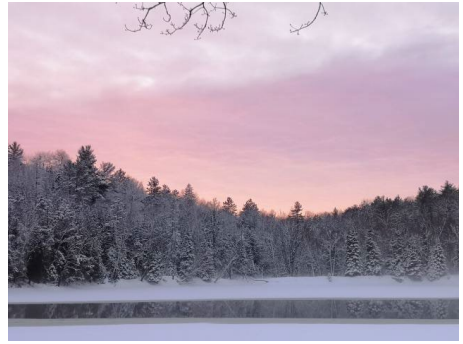
### **Rooted in Hope as a New Year Begins:**

As we turn toward a new year, we pause to reflect on all that 2025 has held—the challenges that tested us, the resilience that sustained us, and the moments of compassion and connection that reminded us who we are called to be. A new year invites reflection, but it also invites imagination. It offers space to dream, to reset, and to open ourselves once again to the transforming power of Christ's love.

Even in a world where uncertainty remains, one truth continues to shine through: acts of kindness and solidarity matter. They shape communities, restore hope, and remind us that we are never alone. Through Mission and Service, these small and steady acts grow into something larger: a network of care that stretches across neighbourhoods, regions, and the world.

As 2026 approaches, we carry forward the lessons and light of the year behind us. Let the coming year be one in which we deepen our commitment to caring for one another and for creation. Let it be a year where we walk alongside Mission and Service partners, drawing strength from shared purpose and shared hope. Together, we can nurture a future rooted in justice, compassion, and peace.

Thank you for the impact made throughout 2025. Your generosity through Mission and Service lights the way, sparking hope, bringing healing, and transforming lives. May the year ahead be one of courage, renewal, and steadfast love as we step into 2026.





# 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

17575 58A Ave., Surrey, BC V3S 1N1 | 604.574.5813 | [cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca](http://cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca)

### *Ministers*

*Lead Minister*

*Associate Minister*

*Director of Music Ministries*

*Office Administrator*

*Children & Youth Ministries Leader*

*Director of Music Ministries*

*Intercultural Ministry Coordinator*

*Church Council Chair*

All of the Congregation

Rev. Matthew Emery – [matt@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca](mailto:matt@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca)

Youngsun Cheon – [youngsun@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca](mailto:youngsun@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca)

Tim Bailey – [tim@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca](mailto:tim@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca)

Lily Lee – [office@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca)

Ross Shearer – [ross@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca](mailto:ross@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca)

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

Chohee Won – [chohee@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca](mailto:chohee@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca)

Daniel Ariss – [arissd135@gmail.com](mailto:arissd135@gmail.com)