



**GLADWIN HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH**  
3474 Gladwin Road, Abbotsford, BC, V2S 7B4  
P: 604-852-3984 E: [ghuc@shaw.ca](mailto:ghuc@shaw.ca)  
[www.gladwinheightsunitedchurch.org](http://www.gladwinheightsunitedchurch.org)  
Gladwin Heights is a member church of Affirm United

## Announcements for January 11, 2026



We look forward to seeing you  
this Sunday at 9:30am!

## *Weekly Worship Elements*

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29 [VU 756]  
Matthew 3:13-17

### **HYMNS**

MV 12 – “Come Touch Our Hearts”  
VU 79 – “Arise, Your Light is Come” v 4  
VU 380 – “She Comes Sailing on the Wind”  
A New Creed  
VU 960 [Ecumenical Version] - The Lord’s Prayer  
“These Gifts We Bring”  
MV 161 – “I Have Called You By Your Name”  
VU 679 – “Let There be Light” v 1,5,6

## Minister's Message

*Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this....After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions....Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour.*

*- Luke 2:41-43, 46, 51-52.*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins.

- Excerpt from "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman.

Siblings in Christ,

How far is it from Christmas to Easter? Depending on how you understand the question, the answer is about twenty chapters, or about 3 months, or about 30 years. I had never thought very much about that last number, until a

friend lent me Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal. I had previously ignored it, assuming it was silly and sacrilegious, but as I read it I found it both amusing and thought provoking. What did Jesus get up to between his childhood and the beginning of his ministry somewhere in his thirties? Lamb and other sources imagine him studying with Buddhists and having other adventures. As a Galilean peasant the most likely answers are "growing up," and, "nothing of note."

"Nothing of note" is not the same as "nothing important." As much as we might prefer otherwise, to get from childhood to adulthood, we must pass through adolescence. To get from Christmas to Easter Sunday, we must pass through the darkness of winter and the darkness of Good Friday. To write the paper, we must read piles of books (sigh). Even the most fanciful accounts acknowledge by their very existence that it took time for the Jesus of Christmas to become the Jesus of Easter. Jesus' slow growth into the one who could embody God's love to the unloved took time. To raise Jesus – this was the work of Christmas.

If it takes thirty years for Jesus to become the man he needs to be (and for all that, still imperfect, as we glimpse in a few passages), why do we imagine we are any different? Don't be surprised when your church is not yet a shining city on a hill. Do not give up when our world is not yet the kingdom of God. Most importantly, do not beat yourself up when you fall short of your ideals. The colour of the Church seasons of Epiphany and Ordinary Time are green for exactly this reason: they are seasons of quiet growth and maturation after the excitement of Christmas and Pentecost, respectively.

All of us are works in progress. Even the Son of God. Even you.

Yours in Christ,

Tim

## *Gladwin's Events*



### **MURDER MYSTER GAME January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1pm.**

Sugar Shack Cafe will run from **11:30-1:00pm** for lunch: hamburgers, hotdogs, & desserts! Bring a friend!



### **YEE-HAW BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** Gladwin's

western themed birthday celebration for our distinguished group (80+) is **February 21st**. Everyone is welcome! More info coming soon!



### **GARAGE SALE** Our annual garage sale and soft

good collection will be held Saturday **April 18th, 2026**. Unfortunately there is no storage at the church, please contact Ellen she can arrange something.



### **5/2 MINISTRIES WITH B'HAI** we are making

sandwiches to distribute to those who are homeless. We meet at the church on the **first Tuesday of the month at 2pm**

## *Cluster & Shared Announcements*



### **RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT** Next ROMEO date

is **January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026** at JoJo's Restaurant.

Subsequent date is January 23rd at 7am

**WORLD RELIGIONS CONFERENCE** Trinity will be hosting the WRC on **January 12th at 6:30pm**. The conference will take place in the Sanctuary, with a free Indian dinner in the Upper Conference room afterward. For more info please visit

<https://worldreligionsconference.ca/>

# *Please Note!*



**ANNUAL REPORTS** It's that time of year to start thinking about what to write in your reports! Please have your reports submitted by **Jan 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** January 18 to 25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There will be a service at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Abbotsford, at 11:00AM followed by lunch.



**NAME TAGS** Please wear your name tags during the service. If you do not have one, please inform Melissa in the office.



**FACEBOOK SERVICE** We broadcast our in-house service via Facebook Live, for those who are unable to make it in person. Visit the [Gladwin Heights Facebook Page](#) and look for the Service by date. It can be viewed online anytime.



**Gladwin Height is a recipient of a Seeds of Hope grant in support of our redevelopment plans**

## Church Reception Hours

### **St. Andrew's Office**

Monday 8:30am-4:30pm

Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

### **Gladwin's Office**

Tuesday 8:30am-4:30pm

Thursday 9am-12pm

### **Reverend Tim**

10am-5pm



### *January Birthdays*

Len Stein  
Cara Stein  
Byron Jordan  
Janice Lanigan

January 12  
January 22  
January 24  
January 27