Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church

Open to All



Hybrid Worship

ADVENT I

29 NOVEMBER 2026

Presider: Lay Led

Music: Frances Armstrong

We acknowledge that these lands upon which we worship are the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Words for Worship

Words of response are in bold & italics

Prelude

Welcome

Faith has brought us to this sacred space to join together in worship of God.

(*we pause to remember the different paths that brought us to this place)*

Hope keeps us coming here week after week and unites us in our desire to help bring the Light into this world.

(we pause now to think of the new world of light and goodness that we all strive to achieve)

And last but certainly not least it is love of God and of one another that sustains us in our faith and hope.

(*we pause to acknowledge the grace of God that flows through each one of us)*

Acknowledgement of the Land

We prayerfully acknowledge with thanksgiving that we gather on the unceded territories of the Snuneymuxw people. Gracious God, help us to seek a new relationship with the first peoples here, one based in honour and respect. Amen.

Call to Worship *2 Corinthains 13:14*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Sprit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Lighting of Advent Candle

First Lighter Jennifer Hewson

We light this first candle of Advent in hope**.** Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the season when we watch, wait, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Second Lighter Andrew Hewson

Even when the days grow short and the world feels uncertain, we hold fast to God's promise of light and new life. Today we light the first candle—the candle of Hope.

There are so many things that we hope for -so many things that need to be brought into the light.

Second Lighter Andrew Hewson
Yes, we hope for many things some spoken and some left unsaid that we often carry within our hearts.

It is good to think of all of those things that we hope for and call them into our mind even those that we carry in the deepness of our hearts.

First Lighter Jennifer Hewson
We also light this candle in preparation to keep our light burning and to stay alert and awake.

We are not always aware or alert to God's presence -when we trust in God we learn how to hope and to dream.

Second Lighter Andrew Hewson
Yes, we dare to dream with God's grace and to hope for a better world

We dare to dream of a better world

Right Side
A world that is fair and seeks justice and truth

Left Side
A world that is free from racism and hate

A world that treats all people with respect and dignity

Right Side
A world that protects and uplifts the poor, the downtrodden, the sick, the oppressed,

Left Side
A world that honours peace and brings an end to conflict of all types.

All Men
A world where women are treated equally and are protected against violence and abuse.

All Women
A world where women are allowed to be educated, to grow strong and assume positions of governance to bring peace into this world.

A world where indigenous people are afforded equal opportunity and where true reconciliation of culture and beliefs is achieved.

(the first candle is lit)

God of hope, as this flame shines in the shadows, kindle your light within us. Open our eyes to signs of your grace, steady our hearts in your promises, and send us out to share your hope with the world. Amen.

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound **VU #29**

[1]Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne;
and every voice a song.

[2]He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

[3]He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

[4]Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Prayer of Forgiveness
Loving God,

God of promise and new beginnings,
as we light the first candle of Advent,
we confess how easily we lose sight of the hope you offer.
When the world feels heavy or uncertain, we often turn inward, letting fear, cynicism, or impatience crowd out trust.
We overlook the quiet signs of your grace right in front of us, and we fail to be bearers of hope for our neighbours who are weary or struggling.
Forgive us, Holy One. Open our eyes to your light breaking into the shadows, and renew our courage to live as people of steadfast hope. Amen.

God's promise never fails, and Christ's light shines in the deepest dark. Know that you are forgiven, held in grace, and called to share hope with the world.

Thanks be to God!

Affirmation of Faith *New Creed- United Church of Canada*

We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God."

Peace of Christ

Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you;" my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid."
The Peace of Christ be with all of you.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Prayer Before the Reading of Scripture

Come Holy Spirit ,open our minds and hearts to hear the word and be alert to and aware of the message being conveyed to all of us today

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9 *(NRSVUE)* Reader: Paddy Waymark

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered[c] us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of God

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Reader: Paddy Waymark

As is your custom, please stand or sit for the reading of the gospel.

God be with you.

And also with you

The Good News of Jesus the Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Christ Jesus.

Mark 13:24-37 *(NRSVUE)*

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the Gospel of Christ.
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Hope in Dark Times

Hymn of Response: O Come O Come Emmanuel **VU #1**
[1]O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

[Refrain]
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

[2]O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go. [R]

[3]O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. [R]

[4]O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. [R]

[5]O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery. [R]

[6]O come, O Dayspring from on high
and cheer us by your drawing nigh
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death’s dark shadows put to flight. [R]

[7]O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples of one heart and mind
O bid our sad divisions cease
and be for us the Prince of Peace. [R]

Life & Work of the Church

Prayers of the People Lynette Jackson
Loving God,
Hear our Prayers.
The Lord’s Prayer *(sung)* **VU #959**
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as
we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Offering *(offering now to be collected)*

Offering Prayer
In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, O God. Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful heart.
Amen.

Closing Hymn: We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection VU #586
[1]We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life who sets us free.

[2]We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all in circles of our love.

Blessing & Sending
Go now in hope and peace.
May God - who creates, redeems, and walks beside us - keep watch over your journey.
May Christ, the light, brighten your path and steady your spirit.
And may the Holy Spirit fill you with courage to live in love and justice, now and always.
***Amen*.**

Postlude

"Hope" is the thing with feathers

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chillest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

Emily Dickinson