

Église Unie Summerlea United Church
Sunday, December 02 2018 dimanche, 02 décembre
THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We Gather as God's People

Prelude

Introit

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Centering

Call to Worship

One: Creator God, restore our hope so that if we look for you, we will see you in your creation. Create in us a feeling of closeness to you.

All: Help us to live this day intentionally with you.

One: Christ, give us hope that if we set our minds and hearts to look for you in all people, we will see you.

All: Help us to live this day intentionally with you.

Leader: Spirit, give us the curiosity and imagination and strength to see you through the clouds of our cultural messiness. Help us to see more clearly and live more fully.

All: Help us to live this day intentionally with you. Amen.

Hymn "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

VU #371

Prayer of Confession

God, deep down, we believe we can do it all by ourselves. We are gearing up to slog through this season on our own, by our own power and with our own strength. But in our heart of hearts, we know we cannot do anything well without you. Help us to look for you in the small things around us. Then we can relax and know that you are with us and will walk with us and that we can lean on you. Please be patient with us and our intentions.

Words of Assurance

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle: "HOPE"

One: For many people, Advent is a time of extreme busyness and stress. For others, it might be a time of sadness, grief and withdrawal. Or, ironically, it might even be both at the same time. The expectations of what this time is supposed to be can put anxiety into any of us. This year we will strive to live these days proactively and as simply as possible. We will start each day with the intention of finding something good in our lives. We will see God in God's creation and in God's people.

All: God of Hope, we are looking for you as we start this new church year. We intend to look for you in your creation and in your people. We intend to listen and see and taste and feel

your goodness, and not get distracted by what's happening around us. Be with us, hold us, accompany us and bring us hope.

The candle is lit as we sing the first verse of Hymn 7– "Hope is a Star"

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Hymn "Wait For the Lord"

VU #22

We Listen for God's Word
Scripture reader: Mary Reynolds

Hebrew scripture reading Jeremiah 33:14-16 p.860 ot

Responsive reading Psalm 25, with Refrain 2 VU #752

Reading from the Gospels Luke 21:25-36 p.115 nt

Sermon "STAND UP AND RAISE YOUR HEAD"

Anthem "Prepare the Way!"

by Don Besig

We Respond to God

Offertory

Offertory Dedication VU #55, verse 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – gi – ve my heart.**

(please remain standing for the communion hymn)

Communion hymn "Seek Ye First the Kingdom" VU #356

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion
As we come to this table,
we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ,
a banquet prepared for everyone.
All who seek to be nourished and sustained
in the journey of faith,
all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here.
God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray:

(The following prayer was inspired by "Blessed are you, gracious God..." by William Kervin and Lillian Perigoe in Celebrate God's Presence, page 276. Used with permission.)

Blessed are you, Breath of peace,
Giver of all life,
Source of love that knows no boundaries.
Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;
throughout the ages, your song of liberation has impregnated us with your hope for a world where:
those considered last and least are first and most;
violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love; and, all siblings work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth,
and send prophets to awaken us
to your approaching Advent among us.

We thank you for those who, like Mary,
have the strength and courage
to give birth to your love in the world;
for those who, like the shepherds,
dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem;
for those who, like the wise ones,
actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us
in womb and tomb,
in cradle and cross,
in tenderness and compassion.

We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,
"O come, Emmanuel."

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us,
we proclaim your goodness.

Sung: **O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Words of Institution

At this time, we also remember
all with whom you would have us share your feast.
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...
all who are ill or alone...
all who are close to our hearts...
all our sisters who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...
all whose lives have been blighted by violence, racism, or poverty...
for all whom the world counts as last and least.

We pray for the church and its many ministries,
for nations as they strive for peace and justice,
for an end to violence against women.

God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding,
this wine the medium of our transformation,
this table the foundation of our renewal,
and this community the place of our rebirth. Amen.

At this time, we remember Jesus,
Who on the night before he died,
took a loaf of bread,
gave you thanks, broke it, and said,
"Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."
Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,
"This is the new covenant; remember me."

Gracious God, Breath of peace,
Source of love,
we pray for your Spirit.

Make us, while many, one.

Make us, though broken, whole.

Make us, despite death, alive.

And so, we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

And so, we join with our siblings around the world in the prayer of Jesus: Our Father...

The Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

The body of Christ,

the Bread of life.

The lifeblood of Christ,

the cup of blessing.

Let us eat and drink together
for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world.

Sharing in the Bread and the Cup

Prayer after communion:

**We thank you, God,
for breaking into our world
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.**

**We thank you, God,
for this meal of thanksgiving
and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen**

Hymn "May the God of Hope Go With Us" VU #424

Commissioning and Benediction

Common Blessing VU #45, verse 1

**HOPE is now in every place,
Christmas lightens every face;
now be with us, in your grace,
O hear us, bless us, ho – ly Jesus.**

Postlude

Sources:

Advent liturgy & Intentions: Lynn Willis - LEAD waytolead.org

Advent Communion Liturgy: Alydia Smith - Advent Unwrapped, United Church of Canada