



HOLY TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Minister: Rev. Cory Vermeer-Cuthbert

Music: Ann Foy and the Central Avenue Bubble
(Ann, Russ, Kathy, Arlene, Alison & Sandy)

Order of Worship
Advent 1 – Hope
Sunday, November 29, 2020

Welcome

A warm welcome is extended to all this morning, especially those who are worshipping at Holy Trinity for the first time. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together.

We invite you into this place and time of acceptance and light, to worship and know you are beloved and held in the divine embrace, just as you are.

WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The light of the Christ is like hope that shines in the night,
leading us onward til the morning is bright.
Let us be aware, alert and awake as we journey toward the holy birth.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

For thousands of years First nations people have walked in this land. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the lands represented in the Robinson-Huron Treaty 61 of 1850, the Traditional Territory of the Serpent River and Mississagi people and we acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.

Call to Worship

(based upon Psalm 80)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine.

God of hosts, stir up your might!

Reshape us, O God; let your face shine.

We bring all that we have and all that we are to this space and time.

Our tears, our laughter, our hope, our anxieties.

We bring it all to you this day.

Reclaim us, O God; let your face shine.

Restore us, O God, let your face shine, that we may remember you and worship you this day.



Prayer of Lament, (based on Isaiah 64)

O God, how we wish that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

We are anxious, O God, lonely, feeling like the world as we knew it, is racing out of control.

O God, how we wish that you would tear open the heavens and come down... so that the nations might tremble at your presence.

We are anxious, O God, lonely, knowing that this Christmas will be like no other.

O God, how we wish that you would tear open the heavens and come down... and work for those who wait for you.

We are anxious, O God, lonely, knowing that we will largely need to stay put and that there will be small numbers around the Christmas table.

O God, how we wish that you would tear open the heavens and come down... that nations might tremble at your presence.

We are anxious, O God, lonely, tired of having to pay so much attention to washing our hands, wearing our masks, and walking six feet away from each other.

O God how we wish that you would tear open the heavens and come down... and meet those who do right, and remember your ways.

We are anxious, O God, lonely, tired, depleted, longing to hug one another, to sing joyously, to linger over a meal with others.

O God, how we wish that you would tear open the heavens and come down... and inhabit our praises; we remember that a song must rise for the Spirit to descend.

But today you remind us that you are our God.

We are the clay, and you are our potter.

We are all the work of your hands.

Forgive us, O God. Reshape us, reclaim us.

Help us to remember you. Help us to remember that we are all your people. Help us to remember that we are in this – together. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN:

Come and Find the Quiet Centre, VU # 374

Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING LITURGY

Chorale

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to wait.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for light in the darkness.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for freedom from captivity.

We wait in hope for the Lord: he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for comfort in sorrow.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

During Advent we wait for power in weakness.

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Candle-lighting

This morning we light the first candle. [*Light the first candle.*] The first candle reminds us that, as we wait upon the Lord, God's light never ceases to shine, God's will never ceases to unfold, and God's grace never ceases to be felt. As we begin the journey of Advent, may we learn to wait upon the Lord with hopeful expectation by celebrating all God has done and anticipating all that God will do.

Chorale

Prayer

God in heaven, as we begin this season of Advent, we pray that you will teach us to wait with patience, endurance and trust. Holding to the eternal promises revealed to us through the power of your Word, we ask that you remind us of your everlasting presence. Amen.

Sharing Peace with One Another



HYMN:

Come Thou, Long Expected Jesus, VU # 2

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free:
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us for ever;
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.



We Listen to God's Word Spoken to Us

(Today's Reader: Doug Elliot)

First Reading: Isaiah 64: 1–9 (NRSV)

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as 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!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From 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.
⁵You 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.
⁶We 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.
⁷There 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 us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Responsive Psalm 80: Part 1

VU pg. 794

Refrain:

Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

Shepherd of Israel, hear us,

You who lead Joseph like a flock,

You who are enthroned amidst the cherubim.

Shine forth Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh;

Stir up your might, come and save us. *R*

God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayer?

You have fed us with the bread of weeping,

And given us tears plenty to drink.

You have made a mockery of us to our neighbours,

And our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Let your hand rest on the one at your right hand,

On the one you have made strong for yourself.

Then we will never forsake you;

Give us life, and we will call on your name. *R*



Gospel: Mark 13:24–37 (NRSV)

The Coming of the Son of Man

- ²⁴ “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.
²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

- ²⁸ “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.
²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

- ³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.
³⁴ 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.
³⁵ 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,
³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Sermon: *Restore Us, O God*

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord's Prayer

Moment of Musical Meditation

insert

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn:

Be Still, My Soul, VU # 652

Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,
Who through all changes faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend
Through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still, my soul, your God will undertake
To guide the future surely as the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, by soul, life's tempests still obey
The voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever in God's peace;

When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.

Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH THE SERVICE OF OUR LIVES

Minute for Missions

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Prayer

Hymn: Hope is a Star, VU # 7

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain:

*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.*

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. **R**

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. **R**

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart. **R**

Commissioning and Benediction

Instrumental Response