



ORDER OF WORSHIP

1st. Sunday of Advent, November 28th. 2021 – 10:30 am

*You are invited to say or sing the bold print

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Advent is here; in the revolving seasons of the church calendar, today a new year dawns.

CAROLS IN ADVENT: VU#74 “What Child is This?”
VU#29 “Hark the Glad Sound!” v.1,3,4 *SANDRA RUTTAN & Choir members*

ORGAN PRELUDE : Voluntary on “Forest Green” by J.W. Krug *SANDRA RUTTAN*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: *ROBIN MILANI*

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the time of anticipation and hope.

Advent is a good time to celebrate the Gifts of the Four Directions as seen in the medicine wheel of the Indigenous Peoples.

We use today resources inspired by Rt. Rev. Stan McKay, Cree Person, and former Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

(Invite people to face the east) We light this candle in the direction of the east, the place where the sun rises, and we awaken to a new day. We look to the east, remembering the Magi, who saw a bright new star rising and followed it to find a child, born to make a new beginning and to bring hope.

(lights yellow candle and sing: VU 7 Hope is a Star v.1)

Creator, in the birth of Jesus Christ, you make all things new.

May your saving power rise on us like the sun, bringing healing like the sun's rays,

that together we may heal the earth and heal each other. Amen.

WELCOME & NEWS

Hewitt Holmes

How are you today? **We are blessed and highly favoured.**

WE PRAISE AND PRAY

Advent is hope that makes us glad for the coming of the loving Christ.

^WORDS FOR THE GATHERED:

Advent is a time for waiting.

We wait for God, who appears like a tender branch growing from a stump.

Advent is a time for hoping.

We Hope in God, who brings peace, justice and righteousness.

Advent is a time to worship.

We praise the One who comes to fulfil promises.

(Presbyterian Church of Canada – Worship Resources 2021, Year C)

***HYMN:** VU #242 “Let All Things Now Living” *SANDRA RUTTAN & Choir members*

^ADVENT PRAYER

SILENCE

^WORDS OF HOPE:

The One who comes with justice also comes with mercy.

The God of Judgment is truly the Christ of compassion.

God offers you forgiveness today, in the hope we will receive it gladly.

As co-creators with God, we rejoice in the new thing that the living Christ is doing in our lives today.

RESPONSE: MV#33 "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope" SANDRA RUTTAN/members of the choir

WE READ, REFLECT AND RESPOND

Advent is about the Spirit of God in Christ who comes to move within us and among us, to open our eyes to see and hear words anew.

^READING FROM SCRIPTURE: Luke 21:25-28; 1:26-33 (Inclusive Bible)

ROBIN MILANI

Let us listen to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Chapter 21: 25 "Signs will appear in the sun, the moon and the stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish, distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves.

²⁶ People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the earth. The powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁷ After that, people will see the Chosen One coming on a cloud with great power and glory.

²⁸ When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your ransom is near at hand."

Chapter 1:26 Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

²⁷ to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David.

²⁸ Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, "Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!"

²⁹ Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel's greeting meant.

³⁰ The angel went on to say to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God.

³¹ You'll conceive and bear a son, and give him the name Jesus – 'Deliverance.'

³² His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus the judgement seat of David, his ancestor,

³³ to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end."

*This is life giving Word for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.***

SERMON: "The Gift of Hope: A Lasting Tradition"

Hewitt Holmes

AFFIRMATION:

**When the nations experience pandemic,
and everyone is affected,
do not become weary and cease to care,
for your liberation is near.**

When cyclones and waters ravage and insurance companies renege,
do not rant wildly and vainly swear,
for your salvation is near.

**When recession hits hard and the poorest people suffer,
do not forsake compassion and prayer,
for your rescue is near.**

When casinos prosper while the church seems to shrink,
do not propagate gloom and despair,
for God’s kin-dom is near.

**When the streets, trees, lakes and homes are covered with snow,
and you can see the leaf,
stand tall and deeply breathe the winter air
and hope of springtime,
for the Living God is very near.**

[sic] @ B. D. Prewer, 2000

CHORAL ANTHEM: “Bring Us Hope” by Ruth Elaine Schram VIRTUAL CHOIR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Hewitt Holmes

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*VU, pg. 960, using inclusive language*)

WE RETURN TO COMMUNITY WITH GOD’S LOVE

Advent reminds of the coming and living Christ who brings goodness to transform the world.

***HYMN:** VU# 5 “All the Earth is Waiting” v. 1,2,3 SANDRA RUTTAN & Choir members

^SENDING FORTH Hewitt Holmes

CLOSING SONG: VU#37 “GLORIA”

POSTLUDE: “There’s a Song in the Air” by P. Choplin SANDRA RUTTAN

(We remain grateful for the offerings given today and electronically)