



St. Paul's United Church
Sunday, November 28, 2021

Advent 1 and Communion

Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Readers: Gabriella Dell, Dan Donaldson

**Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Rick Dell, Catherine
Ladouceur, Noah Leis, Bruce Wilcox**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE:

Candle liturgy



One: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the *coming* of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

SUNG RESPONSE: Words and music by Lisa Waites. Sung by Charlotte Heffernan
Gathering 2021-2022 Epiphany Year C

**Light a candle for hope in the darkness, minds at rest we know we are near.
Advent watching and waiting for Jesus, God with us redeeming the years.
Emmanuel, hope is here. Hope is here.**

OPENING PRAYER: read by Dan Donaldson

**Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories
to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

OPENING HYMN: VU# "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

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 its ways to go. **Refrain**

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. **Refrain**

5 O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road and bar the way to death's abode. **Refrain**

6 O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light. **Refrain**

7 O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 3:1-6, read by Gabriella Dell

SOLO: "Breath of Heaven" sung by Joelle Kontos

SERMON:

REMINDER ABOUT GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

COMMUNION HYMN: "We Gather Here" VU#469 sung by Rebecca Amadei

1. We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving son, God fashions us as one:
come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord. No one is a stranger here,
everyone belongs; finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.

2. He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the One we love the most is now our gracious h
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.
We are now a family of which Christ is the
head; though unseen he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.

3. We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS VU# 93

**Holy, holy, holy are you,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth
are filled with your glory,
Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is the one
who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION VU#933
**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come, come again.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND WINE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: read by Dan Donaldson

In this Advent time of preparing, O God, we come knowing that you offer hope to all. May the bread and wine remind us that you are our hope in the midst of darkness and fear. Be with us as we await your promised one. Amen

CLOSING HYMN: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Calling"

1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!
2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, go up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away,
3. but the word of our God is steadfast; the arm of the Lord is strong;
God stands in the midst of nations, and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd, the lambs will gently hold,
to pastures of peace will lead them, and bring them safe to the fold.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—
For the light of God's love is discernable everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

The good news of Advent is this:

Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

We will welcome Christ into our hearts.

We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.

We will go forth from this place in hope.

POSTLUDE

THE OPENING PRAYERS, CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY AND BENEDICTION WERE USED WITH PERMISSION FROM PROCESS AND FAITH IS A MULTIFAITH NETWORK FOR RELATIONAL SPIRITUALITY AND THE COMMON GOOD.