



**St. Paul's United Church
Sunday, November 27, 2022**

Advent 1

Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

**Singers: St. Paul's Choir, United Church of Christ
University Singers**

Readers: Doreen Gunson, Bruce Wilcox

Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

CALL TO THE GATHERED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

OPENING HYMN: VU#5 "All Earth is Waiting" sung by United Church of Christ in University Place musicians.

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel."
One whose name is "God with us." Our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our heart

OPENING PRAYER: Read by Doreen Gunson

**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.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE:

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: "Light a Candle"

Light a candle, a symbol of hope. Light a candle, and warm in its glow.
Light a candle to shine in the dark. Light a candle, open your heart.
Light a candle and open your heart.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44, read by Bruce Wilcox

SERMON:

ANTHEM: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (VU#1)

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.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease, and be for us the Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

REMINDER ABOUT GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER: read by Doreen Gunson

CLOSING HYMN: "Mary Did You Know"

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God

Mary, did you know? (Did you know?)
Mary, did you know?
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am

Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)
Mary, did you know? (Mary, did you know?)

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Greene Lee Rufus / Lowry Mark Alan

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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
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