



St. Paul's United Church
Sunday, December 3, 2023
Advent 1 & Communion
Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Singers: St. Paul's Choir
Readers: Judy McConnell, Colin Whiteside
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell

WELCOME/CALL TO THE GATHERED/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

OPENING HYMN: VU#1 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 1,2,5,6,7

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel 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**

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**

OPENING PRAYER: read by Colin Whiteside

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE:

SUNG RESPONSE: "Light a Candle"

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



THEME CONVERSATION

COMMUNION HYMN: VU#457 "As We Gather"

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.
2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast

where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

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:

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

(Children leave for Discovery Kids)

SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:1-18

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS & ANTHEM: "Light in the Heart of Winter"

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING AND SUNG REPOSE: VU# 55 (V. 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 – give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER: read by Judy McConnell

CLOSING HYMN: VU#5 "All Earth is Waiting"

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.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION/POSTLUDE