



# Sunday Worship

Westminster Church

The United Church of Canada

*Over 125 years of ministry in the community -*

*Moving forward in a tradition of service*

Sunday Dec. 1, 2019

Advent 1, Communion Sunday

Words printed in **bold type** are to be spoken by the congregation.

## Organ Prelude

## Christ Candle is lit

## Welcome and News

## Centering Music

## Call to Worship

O God, we enter into this season of Advent, we are ready to skip ahead and celebrate the coming of your light, love and joy into the darkness—but in this season of preparation and anticipation, you call us to slow down first, and breathe deeply and prepare ourselves for all that is yet to come.

**As the darkness and coldness of December sets in, may the light and the warmth of your Spirit remind us of the peace that is yet to come, and the peace that is already within us. Let begin our Advent time; let us worship together.**

Hymn VU 260      God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness

## Prayer of Confession

Among the poor,  
among the proud,  
among the persecuted,  
among the privileged,  
The Christ-child is coming.  
**coming to make all things new.**

Within us,  
without us,  
among us,

before us,  
for this time,  
for all time,

**The Christ-child is coming, to make all things new.**

Help us hear the voices of your prophets around us; may they startle us out of our complacency.

**Help us notice wisdom's spirit calling us, nudging us to make changes in our own lives and in the life of our community. Help us embody Christ's presence in our world.....**

*Moment of silence for personal reflection.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

### **Assurance**

In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy and compassion, new life and hope, joy and forgiveness are the gifts we receive from God every moment of every day.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Anthem**

The One

by Craig Courtney

**Lighting the Advent Candles**      Brandon Johnston and Nathan Poole

*(Children are invited to come forward during the lighting of the Advent Candles)*

In the beginning was the Word,

And the Word was with God.

**In the beginning is our hope,**

**and our hope is in God.**

The advent season begins with hope, and so we light this first candle as a sign of God's hope for ourselves and for the world.

**This advent time, we wait in hope -  
a hope that is found in compassion,  
a hope that is found in prayer and care,  
a hope that is found in trusting we are not alone.**

*(light first advent candle)*

May hope light our world this Christmas!  
**Amen!**

## Sung Response

# Advent Carol

## Hope

words by  
NATHAN POOLE  
BRANDON JOHNSTON

music by RICHARD SORIS WILLIS 1850

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 6/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "We wait in hope this Ad - vent day, The can-dle is bur - ning bright, Our hope shines bright to show the way The way of truth and light. We live in hope that we might be God's voice to all that hear: Good News of hope for all who see God's work through- out the year." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

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*Following the advent candle lighting the children are welcome to join Katelyn in the Chapel for a time of Sunday School, and are invited to return during the service of communion.*

## Scripture Reading: Judy Hill

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Romans 13: 11-14

Matthew 24: 36; 42-44

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Message

Rev. Sherri McConnell

### Hymn VU 2

### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(HYFRYDOL)



1. Come thou long ex - pec - ted Je - sus born to set thy  
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver; Born a child and



peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our  
yet a King; born to reign in us for - e - ver; now thy gra - cious



rest in thee. I - srael's strength and con - so la - tion,  
king - dom bring. By thy own e - ter - nal Spi - rit



hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of  
rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -



e - very na - tion, joy of e - very long - ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## Collection of Offerings and Offertory

After the offering is introduced, an offertory will be played and the collection taken. Thank you for your gift, whether given today or through other means of supporting ministry at Westminster Church.

## Offering Doxology

### Glory to God

*first time: one voice*

*second time: all voices*

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah!

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## Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Holy God, accept these gifts**

**and the gifts that are our lives,**

**and with these gifts, may we and this church**

**be signs of your love, compassion and hope in the world. Amen.**

## Celebration of Communion\*\*

### Communion Setting E (VU 942-43)

*\*\*Communion liturgy written by Alydia Smith,  
Program Coordinator, Worship, Music, and Spirituality,  
General Council Office (adapted).*

## Words of Invitation

## **The Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise**

*Blessed are you, Breath of peace,*

*Giver of all life,*

*Source of love without end... ..*

*... .. We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us  
in beginnings and endings, in new life and end of life,  
in womb and tomb,  
in cradle and cross,  
in tenderness and compassion.*

*As we join in the Advent prayer of all your people, saying together -*

**O come, o come, Emmanuel.**

*And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us once again,*

*we proclaim your goodness... ..*

**Holy, Holy, Holy**            VU 942-43

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the Highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

*At this time, we also remember*

*all with whom you would have us share your feast....  
...Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving,  
we may so offer ourselves to you  
that our lives may proclaim the great mystery of faith:*

**Memorial Acclamation      VU 943**  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Holy God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts so that we may know Christ's presence in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup. May our lives be beacons of your peace, joy, love and compassion in the world, and may your Spirit comfort and inspire us with hope... ..*

**Great Amen      VU 943**  
**Amen, amen, amen, amen.**

*Holy God, hear us now as with one voice we say together the words Jesus taught his first disciples to pray, saying....*

**Our father/mother, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Breaking and Sharing the Bread and Cup**



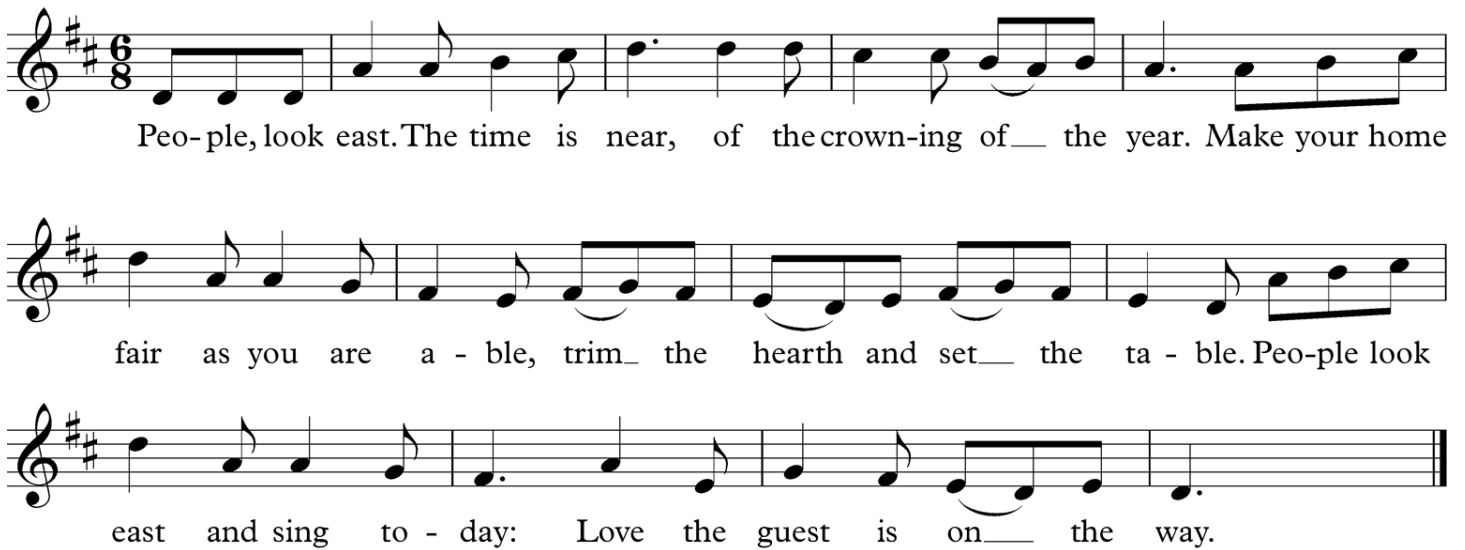
## Prayer after Communion (unison)

Gracious God, may your gifts of love and compassion transform and inspire us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, your hope and your love. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Hymn VU 29          Hark The Glad Sound

## Commissioning and Sending Forth

### Choral Response          People Look East



Peo-ple, look east. The time is near, of the crown-ing of\_\_ the year. Make your home  
fair as you are a - ble, trim\_ the hearth and set\_\_ the ta - ble. Peo-ple look  
east and sing to - day: Love the guest is on\_\_ the way.

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## Organ Postlude

**Lectionary Readings** ( *Gathering*, ACE 2019-2020, page 6. Used with permission.)

**December 8 – Advent 2**

*Worship materials for Advent were contributed by Taylor Croissant, Kitscoty-Marwayne P.C., Kitscoty, Alta.*

**Isaiah 11:1–10**

The peaceable reign of God.

**Psalms 72:1–7, 18–19** (VU p. 790 Parts One and Three)

A just ruler.

**Romans 15:4–13**

The root of Jesse and hope of Gentiles.

**Matthew 3:1–12**

John the Baptist preaches.

**To Ponder**

How do you navigate between the cultural Christmas and the Christian Advent Christmas in this season?