

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / COMMUNION
NOVEMBER 27, 2022

** The live service will be broadcasted and recorded on YouTube, check your email for the link.*

9:45 am Gathering Music / Carol Sing

Advent Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel - Voices United #1 (vs 1-4)

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

to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. R

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

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. R

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;

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. R

Words: trans by John Mason Neale, 1851; Music: 15th Century plainsong arr. Healey Willan

Song # 92288

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Welcome & Centering for Worship:

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, on this first Sunday of Advent - a time of waiting, of preparing, of getting ready, as we welcome and celebrate the birth of Jesus. As our usual practice on this first Sunday of Advent, we are celebrating the sacrament of communion in our service. After the service, you are welcome to join us for coffee and fellowship in the main hall.

Highlight some announcements.

Friends, in the quiet of this moment, in the stillness of our hearts, I now invite you to centre yourself in the presence of God as we prepare to receive the gift of Advent hope. Let us gather in worship.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Advent of Hope Acolytes: Morris/Crow Family

(Wanda Winfield, Gathering ACE 2022-2023 Year A. Used with permission.)

Reader 1: Today is the Advent of hope.

We light this candle to bring hope into shadows of despair.

We live in hope for the light at the end of the tunnel.

Reader 2: We light this candle as our commitment to reveal the
Way of Jesus bringing healing and hope to the world.

(The first Advent candle is lit)

Sung Response: A Candle is Burning (Verse 1) - Voices United #6

(Words: Sandra Dean, 1986; Music: James R. Murray, 1887)

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Rev. Lorrie Lowes

(David Sparks, Gathering, ACE 2021-2022)

It is Advent. Be alert.

In times of joy and abundance, we are ready.
In the midst of difficulty and danger, we are ready.
In times of uncertainty and fear, we are ready.
In times of apathy and despair, we are ready.
With anticipation and with hope,
We look for God's long promised one.
We will not be disappointed,
We will not be disheartened.
Jesus's birth is coming and we are ready!

Opening Prayer (Unison):

(Larry Doyle, Bob Root & Darrow Woods, Gathering, ACE 2013-2014, Used with permission.)

**We enter, O God, into this season of preparation and anticipation,
longing to skip ahead and celebrate the coming of your light into our darkness.
You would have us first slow down, breathe deeply
and prepare ourselves to receive your gift.
We know that your Holy Spirit comes in powerful
and unexpected ways and so we pray
we might recognize you moving in and through the season.
In Jesus' name and in Jesus' way, we pray in hope. Amen**

Time for the Young at Heart

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Prayer of Jesus / The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever, Amen.

****Song: (Tune - Kumbayah My Lord)***

We are waiting, God, come by here (x3)
Oh, God, come by here

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)

Reader: Ross Mutton

Help us, O God, to be alert to signs of your reign breaking into our lives. May your Word of hope inspire us to bring your promises to life in our waiting world. Amen.

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 24: 36-44 (NRSV) The Necessity for Watchfulness

³⁶“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

May the God of hope dwell where the word is spoken. **Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: Celtic Advent Carol – Barrett/Angerman

BCUC Choir

Sermon: “Ready or Not, Here He Comes!” Rev. Kim

Prayers of the People: (Source: faithandworship.com)

Rev. Kim

Advent God, as we wait, we journey with you,
to Bethlehem’s stable,
ears attuned to the song of angels,
eyes alert for Bethlehem’s star.
This is Advent, the season of preparation.
The shops are full of gifts that we might give or receive.
Streets are decorated and carols are being played.
Forgive us, if on our journey,
we are distracted by the tempting offers of this world.
Prepare our hearts not only for the celebration to come,
but also, for sharing that Good News with family, friends and strangers.
Grant us courage and a real willingness to talk about the love
that came down to earth and walked among us.
Let us be your agents of mercy and healing.
May we conspire to help those who lack resources for medical care,
for the homeless, for the hungry,
for those who are broken in body, mind, or spirit,
for those who are grieving and for all who are struggling.
Let us not overlook all those who need compassion and comfort

and those who yearn for hope.
Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas,
and the promise of birth. All these we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Musical Offering: (Advent Memorial Flowers) Abe

Communion Hymn: One Bread, One Body - Voices United #467

Refrain: 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free
Woman or man, no more. Refrain
One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the earth 2 Many the gifts, many the works
We are one body in this one Lord One in the Lord, of all. Refrain
3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown
Gathered to one, for all. Refrain

Words and Music © John B. Foley, 1978, harm Gary Smith 1988

Song # 80673

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The Celebration of Communion

Greeting and Proclamation

Kim: May the God of Advent be with you.

And also with you.

Come to the table with a longing for hope.

We come with thanks to the feast of peace, joy and love.

We give you thanks O, God, for the voice of justice calling from the wilderness; you come as a thunder through the prophets, calling us to repentance and to prepare the way of your coming, overpowering all oppression, embracing hope for the world.

You come in Jesus, Emmanuel, God with-Us, who proclaimed good news to the powerless and humbled those in power, giving birth to shalom, transforming your people.

Lorrie: At this table, we remember the poor, the sick, the lonely, the oppressed. We recall all for whom Jesus lived and died for, blessing their hopes and feeding their hungers. Through Jesus all are welcome in holy hospitality proclaiming that we are all God's children.

In an upper room, Jesus took bread and broke it. Then he took wine and poured it. Jesus gave thanks, as we give thanks, then shared the bread and cup, saying to his friends,

“Eat this bread and drink this cup. This is the new covenant. Do this in memory of me.”

And so, recalling the spark and wonder of his life, the anguish of his death, and the hope of his resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ reigns in our hearts.

Send your Spirit of Life upon this bread and cup, that all who share in them may become the hearts and hands of Christ, bringers of new life to the world. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Kim: Let us now share and partake the bread and the cup reminding us of God's unconditional love.

This is the bread – food for the Advent journey.
Take, eat and be nourished by God’s love.
This is the cup – drink for the Advent journey.
Take, drink and be sustained by God’s grace.

Prayer after Communion: (Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, Gathering, ACE 2015-2016. Used with permission.)

Lorrie:

With this taste of the bread of life,
with this taste of the cup of Love,
send us into the world, God –
so that we might whisper your coming,
so that we might sing your Advent.
so that we might live your birth,
now and forever. Amen!

Minute for Advent Appeal

SOSA Committee

Invitation to Offer:

Rev. Lorrie

We are the work of God's hands, the psalmist says, and God continues to shape us each day into a people of goodness and peace. That is why we bring gifts this morning: to be part of creating a more beautiful world through the ministry of this church and the witness of our lives each day. Let us gather our time, talents and treasures together and present them as an offering to God. If you are not on PAR and wish to send in your offering and donations, you can drop them in the slot by the kitchen door of the church or mail them to BCUC. You can also send in your support through e-transfer. Thank you for your continued love and support to BCUC.

Offertory Prayer: (spaciousfaith.com)

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope.
And we give in hope.
Hope for your coming reign;
Hope because of your presence with us even now.
Receive these generous offerings,
And use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. Amen.

Sending Forth: (Responsively) **Rev. Kim**

(Bob Root, Gathering, ACE 2018-2019, Used with permission.)

And now, may the brightness of hope,
be our gift as we leave this time and place.
May we go out strengthened
because we have been together and touched by God’s Spirit.
May we continue to be a light of hope to the world,
that everyone might see the goodness of God!
Go in hope. **Amen!**

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 5-7) – Voices United #1

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.

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

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

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

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Sung Blessing: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star - More Voices #220

(Words: Catherine Faith Maclean; Music: Janet Bauman Tissandier)

Hope shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home. (Twice)