

The United Church of Canada
Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Advent 2 – Peace
December 07, 2025

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*Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending
Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud
where indicated by **bold** print.*

Welcome & Acknowledgement of the Land

The Life and Work of the Church

Centring Song: VU 9 (v. 5) – People, Look East

Words: Eleanor Farjeon 1928; Music: French folk melody; harm. Martin Fallas Shaw 1928

Eleanor Farjeon's Advent carol is performed by the Deller Consort, an ensemble dedicated to historically informed performance. The group was formed in 1948 by Alfred Deller (1912-1979), an English countertenor known for his performance of English Renaissance and Baroque music.

[People Look East](#)

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
 Christ who brings new life to earth.
 Set every peak and valley humming
 with the word, the Lord is coming.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love the Lord is on the way.

Advent Candle Lighting:

Minister: Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus and through acts of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace.

Voice 1: We wait.

We wait –

not because we do not know the story of Jesus,
and not because you are not already and always here.

We wait because to wait

is to expect something more.

To wait is to expect that the story
might enter our hearts

and our world in new ways,

to bring the change for which we long.

*(First reader or a third person lights **two purple** Advent candles.)*

Voice 2: As we light the candle of peace
we remember the stories of times
you have been our comfort,
when you have heard our cries for justice,
for certainty, for peace,
and you have led us home to the heart of you,
and we know we can trust
that you are leading us forward
as we wait for peace to be born, anew, in us.

♪Response: Light a Candle Bright and Tall (*tune: VU 81 – As with Gladness Men of Old*)
David Wood's 2012 lyrics are set Conrad Kocher's tune DIX, performed on a pochette (or
pocket violin) by 2017 US National Scottish Fiddle Champion Joanna Askeland.
[As With Gladness Men of Old // A Pochette a Day...](#)

Light a candle bright and tall
For the Peace we wish to know.
Peace on Earth for great and small
God's Good News to us bestows.
Shine within our hearts today.
Come, O Peace, to us, we pray.

Opening Prayer:

O come, Emmanuel, come to us,
for we are lonely for God.

Come, bring the peace of God-with-us.

O come, Wisdom from on high,
**lead us in the ways of knowledge
and show us the paths of peace.**

Glorious Shoot from the Jesse tree,
**come and bring life,
fresh and green and lovely, to our spirits.**

O Rose which blooms in the snow of winter,
come and grant to us the blessed gift of hope.

O Bright Morning Star of the darkened world,
come and be for us the Light, the Truth, and the Way.
Jesus our Christ, we welcome you.

**Come and be known among us,
for we want to be your people. Amen.**

Hymn: VU 1 (vv. 1, 2, 4 & 7) – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Words: from the Latin Antiphons, for Advent, ca. 9th century; Music: 15th century
plainsong melody*

This collaboration between Life in 3D and Mat and Savanna Shaw appears on the latter's new album, *Love Like It's Christmas*. These ensembles are all about family: Life in 3D is a trio of siblings who got their first microphone in December 2021 and subsequently taught themselves to arrange and record songs for YouTube in three-part harmony; Mat and Savanna Shaw are a father-daughter duo from Utah who started recording together in 2020 when Savanna's choir practices were cancelled due to the pandemic.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel by Lifein3D and Mat & Savanna Shaw

- 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.
- 2 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.
- 4 O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 7 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.

Prayer for Grace:

Merciful God,
always with us, always coming:
we confess that we do not know
how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have discounted the promise of your Kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.
Forgive us, God.
Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the Magi,
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem
and find the Good News of a child born for us.
Now, in the quiet of our hearts,
we ask you to make us ready for the birth
of Love among us. Amen.

Assurance of Grace:

The Good News of this Advent season
is forgiveness and new life.
Let us commit our lives
to Christ's way of hope and peace.
**Thanks be to the Advent God,
who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.**

Response: VU 10 – Prepare the Way of the Lord

Words: Isaiah 40:3, adapt. Michael Burkhardt, 1990; Music: Michael Burkhardt, 1990

Pianist Robert Aszmies plays the vocal line for Michael Burkhardt's Advent response in this lyric video.

[Prepare the Way of the Lord #010 Voices United Church of Canada Michael Burkhardt Isaiah 40:3 Advent](#)

Prepare the way of the Lord,
Prepare the Way of the Lord.
Make a straight path for him,
Make a straight path for him.
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prayer for Illumination:

O God, beginning and end,
by whose command time runs its course:
bless our impatience, perfect our faith,
and, while we await the fulfillment of your promises,

grant us hope in your Word. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10, *A ruler brings justice and peace*

11:1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

11:2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

11:3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

11:4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

11:5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

11:6 The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

11:7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

11:8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

11:9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

11:10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

24:44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12, *Prepare the way of the Lord*

3:1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

3:3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

3:4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

3:5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him,

3:6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

3:8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance,

3:9 and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

3:10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

3:12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Response:

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

May God bless these readings to our understanding.

Reflection

Hymn: VU 29 (vv. 1, 3 & 4) – On Jordan's Bank

Words: Latin, Charles Coffin 1763, alt.; Music: Musikalisches Handbuch, Hanburg 1690

Charles Coffin, a French educator, writer, and rector of the University of Paris, wrote the lyrics to this Advent hymn, and we use an 1837 English translation by John Chandler (1806-1876), an ordained Anglican priest and a well-respected translator of Latin hymns. In this video, "On Jordan's Bank" is performed in Washington's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest Marian shrine of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

[On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | 2nd Sunday of Advent | Dec 10, 2023 | BNSIC](#)

- 1 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of Kings.
- 3 In you, we find abundant life,
our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and help us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine,
and fill the world with love divine.

Prayers of the People & Prayer of Jesus:

"A voice cries in the wilderness:

prepare the way of the Lord!"

O God, we pray that in our hearts your way may be prepared,
that the path among us, by which your Spirit comes,

may be made straight.

Prepare among us the path of peace.

Grant the peace that comes in following your ways,
in opening our lives to you, and in sharing our gifts for your sake.

Prepare among us the path of love.

We pray for all who need to be embraced by love:

all who are cramped and narrowed in spirit;

all who have lost the ability to trust;

all who ache for a signal they are cherished,

or even noticed by someone;

all who struggle with a lifetime burden
of being told they are not good enough.

Prepare among us, O God, the path of hope.

We pray for those in need of hope today:

all who mourn the death of a loved one;

who grieve the end of a relationship;

who are worried for a friend;

all who are anxious for a family member's health;

people who are overwhelmed by illness or disability;

who live in the midst of social collapse,

warfare, or grinding poverty.

Prepare among us the path of joy.

We pray for those whose spirits need to be buoyed up

and who have forgotten childhood's gift

of taking delight in the simple things of life,

which come from you, O generous God.

Hear our thanks and praise as our spirits turn to you,

and as we remember, in a moment of silence,

the blessings we enjoy. . . .

(Silence to consider blessings)

O God of hope, peace, joy, and love,

we honour you now and always,

through Jesus, your Anointed One,

and in the expectant power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offering Prayer:

Accept, O God, this money offered,

these gifts given, the goodwill of our hearts,

that disappointment may be turned to hope

and worry may be turned to anticipation,

as we await with wonder the birth of Christ. Amen.

Offertory: VU 55 (v. 4) – In the Bleak Midwinter

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, ca. 1872; Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906

Beautifully arranged by Brenda Portman, Gustav Holst's hymn setting is performed by Julliard graduate and flautist Katie Althen-Velázquez, accompanied by pianist Alex Tuchman.

[In the Bleak Midwinter for flute & piano ♪♪ | Gustav Holst](#)

- 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a wiseman, I would do my part;
 Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Communion Hymn: (Carlisle – insert) Then Let Us Sing 23 (vv. 1, 2, 4, & 6) – For Everyone Born

Advent Communion (Carlisle – insert)

Hymn: VU 44 – It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears 1849, alt.; Music: Richard Storrs Willis 1850

Drew and Ellie Holcomb met as University of Tennessee students and were members of the Americana band Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors before marrying in 2006. They perform the beloved Victorian Christmas carol "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," written in 1849 by Unitarian pastor and poet Edmund Sears and set to music the following year by Richard Storrs Willis, a composer who trained under Felix Mendelssohn.

["It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" | Drew & Ellie Holcomb | Official Lyric Video](#)

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
 that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth
 to touch their harps of gold,
 'Peace on the earth, good will to all,
 from heaven's all-gracious King!'
 the world in solemn stillness lay
 to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
 with peaceful wings unfurled;
 and still their heavenly music floats
 o'er all the weary world;
 above its sad and lowly plains
 they bend on hovering wing,
 and ever o'er its Babel sounds
 the blessed angels sing.
- 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife

the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
to hear the angels sing.

- 4 For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Sending Forth and Blessing:

Return now to our world with its pain and wonder,
remembering the words of the prophets,
the faithfulness of Mary,
and the longing of all
who yearn for a sign of hope
and all who yearn for peace.
And may the blessing of God who is ever faithful,
the blessing of Christ who still comes to us,
and the blessing of the Holy Spirit who moves within us
and throughout our world
rest upon us and abide with us, this day and forevermore. Amen.

♪Sending Forth: VU 9 (v. 1) – People, Look East

Words: Eleanor Farjeon 1928; Music: French folk melody; harm. Martin Fallas Shaw 1928

[People Look East](#)

- 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.

Online Postlude: Peace for Christmas

While I know Michael Kaeshammer as a German-born, BC-based jazz and boogie-woogie pianist, he also performs blues, pop, and classical music and is a singer-

songwriter! His song "Peace for Christmas" premiered last year and features the children's choir Singin' IDA! from Hamburg, Germany.

[Michael Kaeshammer - Peace For Christmas \(Official Music Video\)](#)

Liturgy Credits:

Celebrate God's Presence except for Advent Candle Lighting and Advent Communion

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