

The United Church of Canada
Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Advent 1 – November 30, 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 who recorded music from as early as the 13th century. 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. Advent is a season of lighting candles: lighting candles for the hope, peace, joy, and love for which we wait. Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope.

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 a **purple** Advent candle.*

Voice 2: As we light the candle of hope,
we remember the stories of God with us,
when life has been hard, and not what we expected.
We can trust that God is with us, as we wait
for hope 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 Hope within our world;
Hope that heard the ages' call
As the stars and planets whirled.
Shine within our hearts today.
Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.

Opening Prayer:

Every second we exist is a gift.
Gone in a whisper,
it will not come again ... So, God of us all,
we come to you and ask that you
help us unwrap it, and teach us to share it,
and call us to cherish it –
this precious life we've been given. Amen.

Hymn: VU 2 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

This 18th-century Advent and Christmas carol was penned in 1744 by hymn-writing powerhouse Charles Wesley and has been set to several different tunes, in our case the 1715 tune STUTTGART from *Psalmody Sacra*. In the following recording, however, the Scottish ensemble Celtic Worship, founded in 2016, use HYFRYDOL, a 19th-century Welsh tune composed by Rowland Prichard. You will recognize it from "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling."

[Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus | Celtic Worship - YouTube](#)

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,

born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Prayer for Grace:

There are lessons we desperately
need to learn
about love that does what it says,
about concern that changes our behaviour,

....

**During this time of Advent waiting,
help us to realise that there are things
that need doing now.**

Waiting is part of everything,
but there are times when we are guilty of being stagnant.

When we withhold forgiveness,

forgive us.

When we withhold help or mercy or a kind word,

forgive us.

When we relax in our comfort zones
even though it causes others pain,

move us.

God upon whom we wait,

wake us up.

Amen.

Assurance of Grace:

The past is behind us,
the future is before us,

the moment of new beginnings is now!
As forgiven people we are filled with hope.
Thanks be to God!

Response: MV 97 – Listen, God Is Calling

Words & Music: Traditional song, Tanzania

Near the start of the pandemic, the Men's Quintet at Peace Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Virginia, recorded this virtual performance of a traditional Tanzanian song. I invite you to join in!

[Listen God is Calling - YouTube](#)

Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort and joy.

Prayer for Illumination:

In the quiet, in the listening, in the time of waiting, may your word passed to us through generations and shared among us this day nourish our faith and open our hearts. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14 – *Salvation is near; wake from sleep*

13:11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
13:12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light;

13:13 let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

13:14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44 – *The sudden coming of salvation*

24:36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

24:37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

24:38 For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,

24:39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.

24:40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.

24:41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left.

24:42 Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
24:43 But 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.
24:44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

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

Reflection: In the Darkness, Waiting

Hymn/Carol: VU 5 – All Earth Is Waiting

Words: Catalanian, Alberto Taulé 1972; English translation, Gertrude C. Suppe 1987, alt.; Music: Alberto Taulé 1972

Known as "Toda la Tierra," this Advent hymn was originally composed in Catalanian, the official language of Andorra and of three autonomous communities in Spain. A recording of it appears on the album *Flor y Canto* third edition, disc 8 (2011), which is part of a collection recorded to accompany the hymnal of the same name that was published by Oregon Catholic Press (first edition in 1989), a hymnal typically utilized by the Hispanic Catholic community for worship services.

Toda la Tierra

- 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 hearts.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
- 4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

Prayers of the People & Prayer of Jesus

Mission & Service: [Wesley Holiday Update](#)

Offering Prayer:

God of Great Expectations, we are so blessed! You have endowed us with myriad gifts in myriad ways. The friends of faith with whom we break bread and those we touch through the sharing of our offerings bring special blessings to our lives. Thank you for making generosity and gift-giving part of our Advent journey. 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/Carol: VU 29 – Hark the Glad Sound

Words: Philip Doddridge 1738, alt.; Music: Thomas Haweis 1792

Bert Polman writes that English Non-conformist pastor Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) wrote some 400 hymn texts, often to accompany his sermons, although not many of them are still in use today. However, his Advent text "Hark the Glad Sound" is still popular and was set to music by Thomas Haweis (1734-1820), a scholar and an ordained minister in the Church of England. This hymn was recorded by the St Olaf Choirs and Orchestra in an arrangement by John Ferguson for inclusion on their 2002 Christmas album *Ris'n with Healing in His Wings*.

[Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes \(Arr. J. Ferguson for Choir, Handbells & Orchestra\) \(Live\)](#)

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
 the Saviour promised long:
 Let every heart prepare a throne,
 and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release
 in Satan's bondage held;

the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Sending Forth and Blessing:

The vision will be fulfilled in its own time.

If it seems slow in coming, wait for it,
for it will surely come.

And as we wait,

may all things work together for good;

may we be blessed with wisdom and discernment,

and determination and patience;

may we take the time to grow in grace,

day by day. 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: medley of carols

To help get you in the Advent and Christmas spirit, I hope you enjoy listening to professional flautist Katie Althen-Velázquez perform a medley of traditional carols arranged by Dona Gilliam and Mizzy McCaskill. Althen-Velázquez is a performer, educator, and content creator based in New York City.

Medley of Traditional Christmas Carols for flute & piano ✨🎵🎄

Liturgy Credits:

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Opening Prayer and Prayer for Grace – excerpted from "Waiting Is Part of Everything" in *Hope Was Heard Singing*, by Susan Foster-Fulton, ©2013, Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, Scotland

From *Celebrate God's Presence* – Assurance of Grace, Sending Forth, and Blessing

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