Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
November 29, 2026 – Advent 1
Congregational Meeting
Kilbride 9:30 am; Carlisle 11:00 am

Worship Leader: Rev. Gayle MacDonald
Cell: 289-442-8420; Email: mgmacd@gmail.com
Music Leader: Dr. Heather Olaveson
Office Administrator: Andrea Osterroth McRae
Office: 905-689-8630

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Purpose

We are pleased to welcome Beverly Tryhurst to Kilbride and Barb Duffin to Carlisle, who represent Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. Beverly is Chair of the Regional Council Congregational Support Commission, while Barb is on the Human Resources Commission of HFC and is the Regional Rep on Carlisle's Transition Team.

Greeting:
God be with you.
And also with you.

Acknowledgement of the Land

We begin this gathering by acknowledging that we are meeting on the land of
(Kilbride: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation),
(Carlisle: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation),
who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

The Life and Work of the Church

(Please refer to the printed announcements in your bulletin)

Centring Music: VU 19 – Kindle a Flame *(repeat)*
Words & Music: The Iona Community 1987
This lyric video is shared by St Peter's Anglican Church in Château d'Oex, Switzerland, and is sung by St Martin's Voices, a professional vocal ensemble based in London's St-Martin-in-the-Fields.
Kindle A Flame by Bernadette Farrell.

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark
And take all fear away.

<u>Call to Worship/Prayer/Advent Candles</u>:
(from Candles & Conifers*, Wild Goose Publications)*
In this season of Advent,
we are here to watch and wait and pray
for the coming of light into the world.
We long for the day when the things of darkness
– selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression –
shall be no more.
God, by your presence,
light up the past
that we might learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present
that we might live in it with love.
Light up the future
that we may prepare it with hope.
As we watch and wait and pray,
may we always be ready
to encounter God
who is already and always with us. Amen.

We light this candle for all God's people,
struggling to be bearers of hope in a troubled world.
God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.

<u>Sung Response</u>: TLUS 55 – We Light This Candle
Words & Music: Pat Mayberry, 2016; arr. David Kai, 2016
If this Advent hymn sounds a little familiar, it's because we learned it during Advent a couple years ago, before it was republished in the United Church of Canada's new hymnal *Then Let Us Sing*. This recording is shared by David Kai, the hymn's arranger.
We Light This Candle

> We light this candle for hope.
> Await the new life within.
> May our hearts now live each day,
> so hope can find a way,
> so hope can find a way.

<u>Opening Prayer</u>:
(Ruth Burgess, Advent Call*, Wild Goose Publications)*
Be with us, God.
Be with us, God, in stone stillness and quiet corners.
Help us to be lights in the darkness,
lights that burn bravely in the circle of your love.
Hear our prayers, God, our yearnings, our carings, our concerns, our questions**.**
Help us to be lights in the darkness,

lights that burn bravely in the circle of your love.
Be in us, God, in our work, our calling, our journeys, our wondering.
Help us to be lights in the darkness,
lights that burn bravely in the circle of your love. Amen.

Prayer for Grace

Assurance of Grace

Sung Response: MV 8 – And On This Path (v.1)
Words: Lynn Bauman 2000; Music: Linnea Good 2003
Lynn Bauman and Linnea Good's inclusive and welcoming hymn is sung virtually by the choir of Trinity United in Ingersoll. Notice the sound of an additional instrument?
MV8 And On This Path

1 And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!

Background, Information on Carlisle Motion & Process

[Kilbride] Rev. Gayle MacDonald
Beverly Tyhurst, Congregational Support Commission, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
[Carlisle] Rev. Gayle MacDonald, Transitional Minister
Catherine Swatten, Chair, Transition Team
Robert (Bob) Moulder, Chair, Carlisle United Church Board
Barb Duffin, Human Resources Commission, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council

Questions/Discussion

Prayer for Illumination:
Hear these words of Scripture. May they bring us comfort and hope. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Psalm 121: *Assurance of God's Protection*
1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

4 He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
5 The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
6 The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
8 The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

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

Offertory: VU 544 – In Gratitude and Humble Trust
During the height of the pandemic lockdowns, Sharon-Hope United Church (just north of Newmarket) shared this offertory with the online community.
In Gratitude and Humble Trust

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People:
Sing into prayer: VU p. 865 refrain "Hear our prayer"
Words & Music: George Whelpton 1897

Hear our prayer, O God,
hear our prayer, O God;
incline your ear to us,
and grant us your peace.

Prayer of Jesus: (traditional)

Hymn: MV 154 – Deep In Our Hearts
Words: John Oldham 1995; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1996

Accompanied by Pacific Spirit United's Minister of Music Bryn Nixon, Deidre and Helena Ayas sing this composition by John Oldham and Ron Klusmeier. As Klusmeier writes in a 2014 *Broadview* article, "Choirs and congregations inside and outside the United Church know this simple song about common longing, vision and purpose. Yet, this song that resonates with so many people in worship settings is not a hymn, does not mention Jesus or God, and has words written by a defrocked United Church minister." It reaches out beyond the United – or, as Klusmeier prefers, "the active, dynamic term 'uniting'" – church.
Deep in Our Heart - More Voices 154

1 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision.
Deep in our hearts there is a common song.
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

2 Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose.
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal.
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

3 Deep in our hearts, there is a common longing.
Deep in our hearts, there is a common theme.
Deep in our hearts, there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

4 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision.
Deep in our hearts there is a common song.
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Commissioning & Benediction

Online Postlude: O Ancient Love
Michael Joncas' 1994 Advent text is given new life in Katie Wills' setting: she composes a new melody while borrowing the tune from "Of the Father's Love Begotten" for the introduction, interludes, and conclusion. The video is shared by OCP, Oregon Catholic Press, which recognizes Wills as the Association of Catholic Publishers 2026 Distinguished Catholic Composer of the Year.
Behind the Mic: Katie Wills - O Ancient Love