

November 28, 2021
Advent I ~ **Hope**

Piano Prelude
Words of Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ *Lynn Dwyer and Gerard Farrell*

Advent Hymn: (*congregational*)

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.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. We wait filled with hope, knowing your light will shine in the darkness. We wait anticipating your peace, believing that one day it will fill our world. We wait embracing your love; may we reach out to share it with our neighbours. We wait with joy, bubbling within us in expectation of your birth. Lord we wait; come soon and fill us with your life. Amen.

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel ~ VU 1

(Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent ca. 9th cent., trans. John Mason Neale 1851 Music: 15th cent. plainsong melody, arr. Healey Willan)

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Call to Confession:

One: Before the steadfast love and justice of God we sense that much is lacking in our faith. How we need to be in touch with the Giver of Life to have our trust renewed and our love empowered! Reach out now that the Eternal may enter into your present need to restore your wholeness.

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

This is a season of preparation, O God. We begin to think about our Christmas preparations; the lights that need to go up, the decorations placed, the gifts bought and wrapped. It is a busy time for us. And yet, you ask this to be time of preparation for your coming and we overlook that and you. Forgive us, God. Sharpen our faithfulness. Enable us to put first things first this advent season - our neighbour, our world, you! For our sake, and in Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Litany of Assurance: (responsive)

One: Look up, for your redemption is drawing near. The realm of God can be known in the midst of us. When we come with humble intention to live God's way, the Ruler of all life chooses to forget our sins.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep God's covenant and testimonies. We are a loved and forgiven people. Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music ~ An Evening Prayer (Dear Lord, Forgive) ~ *Christa Chaplin*
(Words: C.M. Battersby, 1911 Music: Charles H. Gabriel, 1911)

Hearts and Hands

Sacrament of Infant Baptism (see liturgy booklet)

Minute For Mission

Offering Invitation:

One: In thanksgiving render to God that portion of your substance that God requires. Give not only what you have set aside for an offering, but dedicate all you have and are to realization of eternal truth.

Offertory: The Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise him all creatures here below!
Praise him above ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate the opportunity to share. Your promises are more real to us, O God, when we participate in the outreach our gifts make possible. Lead us, we pray, to do what is right with these offerings, and those given through PAR and other means, and with the time and talents you entrust to us. Amen.

New Testament Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 ~ *Mildred Cousens*

Responsive Psalm: 25:1-10 (752 VU) ~ *Mildred Cousens*

Gloria Patri: (in unison)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:25-36

Hymn: O Day Of God Draw Nigh ~ VU 688

(Words: R.B.Y. Scott 1937, alt. 1972 Music: Johan Balthasar Koenig 1738)

Sermon

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn: I See A New Heaven ~ VU 713

(Words and Music: Carolyn McDade 1979)

Commissioning and Benediction

Piano Postlude ~ Higher Ground ~ Dr. David Chafe

(Words: Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1892 Music: Charles H. Gabriel, 1892)