



# The First Sunday of Advent Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope

November 30, 2025

## Gathering Music

*“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord  
God Almighty”  
(VU # 315)*

**Welcome**



# Announcements

# **The First Sunday of Advent: The Candle of Creation**

*By The family of Greg and Sarah*

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth. Now the Earth was formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's Spirit hovered over the water.

**“God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness. God called light ‘day’ and darkness God called ‘night.’ Evening came and morning came: the first day.”**

Today we light the candle of Creation. God's first act, on the first day of Creation, was to separate the light from the darkness: the sun for daytime and seeing, for warmth, for colour, for energy, and joyful living; the dark for rest, for quiet, for dreams and renewal.

We light this candle to remind us that God is present in both the darkness and the light.

**Hymn VU # 6**      (v.1) "A Candle is Burning"

1

**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.**

**Creating God, we thank you for giving us the light of the sun and the restful dark. Thank you for your loving care for all Creation. May you help us to take care of your world, so all your children will have enough to eat, a warm place to live, and never be afraid. Thank you for short days and long nights, because they tell us that Christmas is near. In Jesus's name. Amen.**





# Prelude

O COME O COME EMMANUEL



## Call to Worship

Come and prepare for Jesus' coming.  
**We come with minds stilled in anticipation.**

Come to hear the Word of God.  
**We come with ears perked and ready, come to pray  
for Spirit's presence and come with arms wide with  
opening eyes. Amen.**



## Hymn VU # 7      *“Hope is a Star”*

1      Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
         leading us on ‘til the morning is bright.

### ***Refrain***

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

2      Peace is a ribbon that circles the Earth,  
         giving a promise of safety and worth. ***R***

3      Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
         telling the world that the Saviour is born. ***R***



4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart,  
Jesus has come and will never depart.

***Refrain***

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**



# Prayer of Confession

God of Patience and Peace, you wait for us to turn to you. Sometimes we are ashamed to turn, for we are not at peace; we are not without spot or blemish. As we turn to you, you welcome us and forgive us.

**Our true life begins to shine, and we experience the peace of your presence as we find ourselves in your embrace. May you forgive us the times we have not turned and by your Holy Spirit, give us power to keep turning to you in all things. Amen.**

## Words of Assurance

We are sinners living in an imperfect world. The potential for good and to change is in all of us. We are forgiven. The good news is that we are a forgiven people, restored, loved and free to love.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**



# The Sacrament of Holy Communion





We come to this table with joy and thanksgiving, ... Jesus is the living water. Jesus now pours the best wine. Jesus is waiting for you.

God be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

In time, Jesus, whom you named Beloved, came to invite all humankind to a table of reconciliation. We rejoice at his words of promise and new life, his way of understanding the Holy in each one. We give thanks for people everywhere who continue to live out Jesus' purpose of peace and his words of dignity, healing, and hope.

**Holy, holy, holy God, Power of life and love !**

**Heaven and Earth are full of your glory !**

**Hosanna through the ages !**

**Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to Earth !**

And now, as we gather at the Table, we remember the last meal Jesus shared with His friends,

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and passed it among them saying,

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Whenever you do this, remember me.”

After Supper he took the cup. He blessed it and passed it saying,

“This cup is the Cup of the New Covenant, made in my death. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

Saviour and friend, claim us as your very own.  
Bread and wine are ready.

## **A Prayer of Self-Giving**

In our time and in this place, we do likewise - taking ordinary ingredients and offering them to one another in love as the taste of freedom, of togetherness, of eager hope.

More than a loaf and a cup, we offer our own selves as living bread, to be in the world as Jesus was, as yeast, salt, and light. We pour out ourselves for a world more just, more peaceful, more true to the vision of security for all.

We gather at the table stretching through all time where people continue to find that which truly nourishes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again.**



Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever. And now we pray together in the way of the Christ:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowéd be thy name, thy kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

And now, come to the Table, for all is ready. These are the Gifts of God for the People of God.

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

The Bread of Life for you  
The Cup of Blessing for you

### **Prayer After Communion**

**Holy One, you have baptised us, called us beloved,  
and fed us here at the great banquet of the ages.  
We lift up our hearts in praise and thanks that we  
have this privilege, and we pray that the Spirit may  
continue to dance within us all as we are sent forth  
with your blessing to be a blessing in this world.  
Amen.**



# Time with the Young People

*by Yun-Hee*

## Children Song

### “Advent Song”

<https://youtu.be/HZCtyhOU2gw>

*(The children may now proceed with their guardians to have sharing time.)*



# The Scriptures

## First Reading

*read by Diane*

Romans 13:11–14

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.



"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**We give thanks for inspiration.**

*“Prepare !”*

**Choir Anthem**





# KEEP WATCH

MATTHEW 24:36-44

**Message**

*by Rev. Yun-Hee*

# Hymn VU # 1 (vs 1- 3 and 7)

## *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

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.  
**R Rejoice ! Rejoice ! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

3 O come, O come, great God of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the Law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. **R**



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.**



## **We Offer Our Gifts**

### **Musical Offering HYMN VU # 540**

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.



### **Offering Prayer**

**In this season of Advent, we longingly await the coming of your Chosen one. We share these gifts, so that all might experience your Glory. May you fill our hearts and souls with the Good News of hope. Amen.**

***Refrain***      **My Lord, what a morning.  
My Lord, what a morning.  
My Lord, what a morning  
when the stars begin to fall.**

**1**      You'll hear the trumpet sound  
to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand  
when the stars begin to fall. ***R***

2      You'll hear the sinner cry  
to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand  
when the stars begin to fall.

***Refrain*      My Lord, what a morning.  
My Lord, what a morning.  
My Lord, what a morning  
when the stars begin to fall.**

3      You'll hear the Christian shout  
to wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand  
when the stars begin to fall. ***R***

## Blessing

When our spirits drag, weighed down with life's worries, the Spirit breathes new hope into our hearts.

**When our minds swirl too fast with thoughts unnumbered, God's Grace calms our rushing and gives us Peace. When fear and terror overtake our living, we are led into the world by the light of Christ to share the Gospel dance with joy. Amen.**

You  
are  
blessed!

## **Commissioning** *“Go Now in Peace”*

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of  
every day.*

*Go now in faith, steadfast strong and  
true.*

*Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world  
can see.*

*God will be there within, around,  
above.*

*Go now in peace, in faith and in love.  
Amen, amen, amen.*







**We thank God for being  
with us !  
And  
thank you Congregation  
for worshipping today in  
person and by Zoom  
and  
for your participation in  
the Service !**

*(adapted from the United Church of Canada's  
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