



*The United Church of Canada*  
Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge  
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC  
Trinity and First United  
**Worship leader** Kathy Carlson  
Reader: Donna Wright  
Music: Barb Goertzen

December 7, 2025

Advent 2

**Land Acknowledgement**

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We gather on these tradition territories of the Blackfoot people and extend our gratitude and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

**Call to Worship**

In these darkening days,  
**we come seeking peace.**  
We seek serenity within ourselves.  
**We seek harmony within our families.**  
We seek goodwill among our neighbors.  
**We seek a ceasefire among all nations.**  
We seek not just the absence of conflict,  
But the presence of shalom—  
**the abiding peace**  
**the healing life**  
**the unrelenting justice**  
that God calls us to in Christ.  
Let us worship with Divine hope.

From: Spacious Hope

**Opening Prayer**

Breath of the Four Winds

**Advent 2**

The first blue candle is lit.

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this second candle symbolizing peace—the proclamation that God calls us to live peacefully in understanding.

The second blue candle is lit.

**Noticing the tiny flame, we wonder when the next puff of air will blow it out. We ponder that, if this candle were outside, it would quickly be extinguished.** Still the flame flickers and flourishes—a symbol of the Prince of Peace living within us, a powerful image of strength despite perceived weakness.

***All sing: TLUS 55***

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**We light this candle for peace.**

**Await the new life within.**

**May our hearts now live each day,**

**So peace can find a way, so peace can find a way**

We come to affirm that divine peace thrives within us, a seed of inspiration strengthened by Spirit breath.

**We come to seek wisdom and daring to live lives of peace, transforming into a community of faith that builds bridges.**

We enter into prayer to receive the blessings of the peace that passes all understanding:

**Whisper to our hearts this morning, O God, helping us to notice the chasms we create between one another. Breathe into our intentions that we become ever more aware, believing we can make a difference, no matter how small we may feel. Lead us through the Way of Jesus to listen to one another in love. Amen.**

**Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (alternative words)**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel

Refresh us at your life-giving well.

All people long to feel your grace,

Pour out your Spirit on every place.

***Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel,***

***shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.***

2. O come to us, our Everlasting Home,

Your people lost and broken, roam,

And seek a place of welcome and peace,

From war and violence, may they know release.

***Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel,***

***shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.***

3. O come Beloved, hear your peoples' plea -  
The wounded soul, the homeless refugee.  
May 'Welcome' be our own heart's call,  
'Till there be room and justice for us all.

***Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel,  
shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.***

### **Minute for Mission**

Gifts with Joy, Gifts with Hope, Gifts with Vision  
December always seems to arrive in a blink, doesn't it? Some are already checking off shopping lists, and others are thinking about starting. Wherever you fall, Gifts with Vision can make your Christmas giving simple and meaningful.

With Gifts with Vision, there's no wrapping, no shipping deadlines, and no frantic mall searches. Instead, you can choose a gift that truly matters. Every gift supports communities across Canada and around the world—addressing poverty and hunger, strengthening education, supporting healing and reconciliation, and more. There's something thoughtful for everyone on your list.

Each Gift with Vision connects directly to a Mission and Service project that relies on the generosity of people like you. Your gift becomes part of real change and real hope for people who need it.

As you settle into the season, whether you're a planner or a last-minute shopper, consider a gift that gives back. Gifts with Vision is just a click away.

### **Mission Prayer:**

***God is creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in God. Our first response to God's providence is gratitude. We sing thanksgiving. Amen***

### **Prayer of Reconciliation and Words of Freedom**

**Hymn: VU 680**

**Isaiah The Prophet Has Written of Old Scripture**

### **Children's Time**

### **Scripture Readings:**

**Isaiah 11:1-10 (The Message Translation)**

### A Green Shoot from Jesse's Stump

A green Shoot will sprout from Jesse's stump,  
from his roots a budding Branch.

The life-giving Spirit of God will hover over him,  
the Spirit that brings wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit that gives direction and builds strength,  
the Spirit that instills knowledge and Fear-of-God.

### Fear-of-God

will be all his joy and delight.  
He won't judge by appearances,  
won't decide on the basis of hearsay.  
He'll judge the needy by what is right,  
render decisions on earth's poor with justice.  
His words will bring everyone to awed attention.  
A mere breath from his lips will topple the wicked.  
Each morning he'll pull on sturdy work clothes and boots,  
and build righteousness and faithfulness in the land.

### A Living Knowledge of God

The wolf will romp with the lamb,  
the leopard sleep with the kid.  
Calf and lion will eat from the same trough,  
and a little child will tend them.  
Cow and bear will graze the same pasture,  
their calves and cubs grow up together,  
and the lion eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child will crawl over rattlesnake dens,  
the toddler stick his hand down the hole of a serpent.  
Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill  
on my holy mountain.  
The whole earth will be brimming with knowing God-Alive,  
a living knowledge of God ocean-deep, ocean-wide.  
On that day, Jesse's Root will be raised high, posted as a rallying banner for the  
peoples. The nations will all come to him. His headquarters will be glorious.

### **Matthew 3:1-12** (The Message Translation)

#### Thunder in the Desert!

While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called "the Baptizer," was  
preaching in the desert country of Judea. His message was simple and austere,  
like his desert surroundings: "Change your life. God's kingdom is here."

John and his message were authorized by Isaiah's prophecy:  
Thunder in the desert!

Prepare for God's arrival!

Make the road smooth and straight!

John dressed in a camel-hair habit tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild field honey. People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear and see him in action. There at the Jordan River those who came to confess their sins were baptized into a changed life.

When John realized that a lot of Pharisees and Sadducees were showing up for a baptismal experience because it was becoming the popular thing to do, he exploded: "Brood of snakes! What do you think you're doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to make any difference? It's your life that must change, not your skin! And don't think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as father. Being a descendant of Abraham is neither here nor there. Descendants of Abraham are a dime a dozen. What counts is your life. Is it green and flourishing? Because if it's deadwood, it goes on the fire.

"I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama—compared to him I'm a mere stagehand—will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."

**Message:**

**Hymn: VU 691**

**Though Ancient Walls**

**Offertory Take My Gifts (Words by Shirley Erena Murray)**

Take whatever I can offer--  
gifts that I have yet to find,  
skills that I am slow to sharpen,  
talents of the hand and mind,  
things made beautiful for others  
in the place where I must be:  
take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me.

**Offertory Prayer:**

**Prayers of our Hearts and the Prayer of Jesus:**

Read Prayers of Petition from Book (First) **“Divine Hear Our Prayer”**

For those who are struggling with illness of mind, body, or spirit, may they receive the support they need to achieve as much wellness and strength as possible in their journey. **“Divine Hear Our Prayer”**

This week, in solidarity with our global siblings in Christ, we hold in our hearts the people of Myanmar and Thailand we raise up their gratitude for the efforts to protect the environment and resources in their countries, and we join in their prayers for environmental protection and economic justice for all people during their ongoing development. Divine Hear our Prayer. We wait in darkness for the coming light; we know the infant Christ comes and we are anxious give welcome.

For those struggling with strife within their families and communities. May they feel the gentle spirit of a sleeping newborn Christ, urging them to hush angry voices and relax tense muscles. Let us **Divine Hear our Prayer.**

For those of us watching as politicians, religious leaders, and global powers violate the human rights of those who are most vulnerable and ignore their commitment to care for the least of these. May our voices for changes be like the unrelenting cries of a hungry baby ringing out for justice and care until they can be ignored no longer. **Divine Hear our Prayer.**

For the world’s environment, water, air, soil, and living species, that are being injured by the greedy, the evil, or the willfully ignorant in their hunger for excess. May we challenge them unceasingly, until we are like the ripe fragrance of a soiled baby, filling their nostrils until they understand that pollution cannot be escaped. **Divine Hear our Prayer**

For those who live in fear and danger, in war torn places, in refugee camps, in domestic violence shelters. May our work, help, and prayers offer them the hope that leaps with the pure joy of a laughing baby. **Divine Hear our Prayer.**

For the prayers we have not spoken aloud. For the secret prayers within our minds and hearts, for the prayers we do not even have words for... **Divine Hear our Prayer**

**Hymn: TLUS 129**

**We Shall Overcome**

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
We shall overcome some day!  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
We shall overcome some day!

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,  
We'll walk hand in hand some day!  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
We'll walk hand in hand some day!

We shall all be free, we shall all be free,  
We shall all be free some day!  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
We shall all be free some day!

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,  
We shall live in peace some day!  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
We shall live in peace some day!

**Commissioning and Benediction:**

**Sung Blessing #221 (MV) I am Walking a Path of Peace**

I am walking a path of Peace  
I am walking a path of Peace  
I am walking a path of Peace  
    Lead me home...  
    lead me home.