

December 1 2024

Advent 1 - Hope



- ❖ All **bolded** text is a congregational response.
- ❖ Our Land Acknowledgements in Advent are written by Rev. Mitchell Anderson and used with permission.
- ❖ Our Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy is written by Rev. Robin Pengelly and used with permission

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is December 1, and it is the First Sunday in Advent. My name is Rev. Lynne Gardiner, and I welcome all of you into this place, whether you are worship with us in our sanctuary, or from home through our Live Streaming.

This week, our service is being led by: Carol Husband and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson and Barb Joynt.

A quick reminder of our regularly scheduled Bethel activities: Chat and Chew on Tuesdays at 1:30 and our Zoom Prayer and Share at 10am on Thursdays. If you have any questions about our weekly activities, you can access a calendar on our website: www.bethelchurchrideauferry.ca. The calendar will appear on the first screen and has all of our activities listed.

Sherry Sauv  celebrated her birthday last week. Are there any celebrations this week? Where have you seen God at work this week?

Please join me in singing a brief song of celebration:

VU 958

“Halle, Halle, Halle”

Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Halle, halle, halle-lujah!

Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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Land Acknowledgment (Responsive)

Long ago, all of this land was covered by ice

clothed in a winter without end

But God our Creator brought back the warmth

pulling back the ice and revealing this land

Plants and animals returned to the land

and it was good

Then God gave to the land a people

and a people to the land

To care for one another

to live together

And in this time, we celebrate the gifts of the Anishnaabe and Haudenosaunee People

we celebrate all who make this place a home

We celebrate the promise of hope

Hope for a future good beyond imagining

When all will share this land together in hope, peace, joy and love. Amen.

Mission and Service Story

Nurturing New Beginnings

Becoming a new parent can be overwhelming, with the constant demands of caring for a newborn, sleepless nights, and the pressure to make the right choices for your child. The exhaustion and balancing daily responsibilities while navigating the unknowns of parenthood often leaves new parents feeling unsure and isolated. It's a time filled with great joy, but also uncertainty, as parents adjust to their new roles and work to create a safe and nurturing environment for their little one.

At Fairview Resource Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the New Parents Support group aims to walk with parents as they navigate the complexities of raising a newborn. Once a week, parents gather to meet with a public health nurse who provides education and answers questions. From expectant parents to those with babies up to 18 months, the program provides resources for those who might not otherwise have access to in-person support or resources.

Parents connect not only with health professionals, but form deep bonds with each other, and some are still in contact many years later. Many of us have heard that "it takes a village to raise a child," and Fairview Resource Centre is truly taking action to give a positive space for children in the community to flourish. Thank you for walking alongside our Mission and Service partners as they help children and communities grow.

Your support of Mission and Service is vital to the continuation of incredible programs like these.

Call to Worship (Jeremiah 33: 14-16)

14 'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

15 "'In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Saviour.'

Advent Candle Lighting (Responsive)

Aidan: O come, all you faithful ones! It is time to begin the journey to Bethlehem. It is time to get ready for something wonderful...someONE wonderful!

The days are surely coming!

Amidst the struggles of today, amidst the pressures and anxiety, we live in hope. And hope lives in us, because we have heard the promise of God and we believe. We believe that peace, joy and love can be born anew in our world!

The days are surely coming!

We light the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. (the candle of hope is lit) Small, like the very first glow of dawn on the horizon, it speaks to the promise of a new day, a new way of living together in harmony with each other and the earth.

The days are surely coming!

We begin our advent journey, guided by the light of hope! See here, the stable in Bethlehem, where the animals await the arrival of the Holy Family.

Introit

VU 60 (vs 1)

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:

come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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Opening Prayer

Gracious God, your vision of peace and wholeness comes to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hope. Kindle our hearts that we might be a hopeful people. Keep us from growing weary of waiting, lest we miss the glory of your appearing. Evenso, come quickly, O God. Amen

Opening Hymn

VU 2

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

**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.**

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Passing the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Merciful God, always with us, always coming:
We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
We have ignored the promise of your Kingdom;
We get distract by all the busyness of this season.
Forgive us God.
Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
The intelligent courage of the Magi,
And the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
That we may journey with them to Bethlehem,
And find the Good News of a child born for us.
Now in the quiet of our hearts,
We ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

Assurance of Love

The Good News of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

Theme Conversation

White Gifts

Our Scriptures Today

Luke 21: 25-36

- The Parable of the Fig Tree

Reflection

Hymn

VU 9

"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.

- 2 Furrows, be glad.
Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.**
- 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.**
- 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.**
- 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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

Offering Response VU 542 “We Give You But Your Own”
**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

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Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Today, we have special prayers for:

Leona	Joanne	Manfred
Joy	Sandy	Sandra M
Helene	Abby	Connie
Liam	Yasmina	
Denis and Stella	The Hunt family in	
Maddie	the loss of Cathy	

And together as a community we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying, **Our Father....**

Closing Hymn

VU 29

"Hark the Glad Sound"

- 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.**

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Living our Faith this Week

On this first Sunday of Advent, I encourage you to offer Hope to our world. See if you can keep pointing people to the glimmers of hope and growth in our world.

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Benediction

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of everyday.
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, watching us in love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen**

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