

**Genesis Cooperative  
of the United Church of Canada  
in Partnership with the  
Glenqarry East Pastoral Charge**

*Consisting of the congregations of:  
Alexandria, Cassburn, Dalhousie Mills, East Hawkesbury,  
Kirk Hill, Riceville-Pendleton, Trinity (Vankleek Hill)*

**Sunday Dec. 6, 2020  
Second Sunday of Advent**



**Worship Leaders Today**

Trinity / Cassburn  
Alexandria / Kirk Hill  
Riceville-Pendleton  
Dalhousie Mills  
East Hawkesbury

Carolyn Ruda  
Rev. Phyllis Dietrich  
Valerie Allen  
Merle Marjerrison  
No Service

*“Surely God is in this place... help me notice”  
(attributed to St. Lawrence)*

## **We Gather to Praise God**

*Welcome to our worship service today.*

*We pray you will feel God's presence as we worship together.*

*You are invited to join in reading the responses and prayers, printed in **bold**.*

### **♪Prelude**

### **Greeting and Welcome**

### **Life and Work of the Church**

### **Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy**

### **♪Sung Introit: “Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You” VU 31**

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope my heart's delight.  
O kindle, then, most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

### **Advent 2: Wind**

*The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.  
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3:8)*

We often associate the Holy Spirit with the wilderness and unpredictability of wind. May the breath of the Spirit bring us energy and creativity as we continue on our Advent journey toward Bethlehem.

*The first and second candles are lit.*

### **Let us pray:**

Spirit of God, Energy of Life, hear our prayer as we continue our Advent journey together. Wherever you lead us, wherever you need us, give us the faith to trust your guidance – as Mary

did, as Joseph did, as the wise ones did. We pray as Jesus taught:

**Our Father, who art in heaven ... (*found at VU 959*)**

🎵 Hymn:                    ***“Hark the Glad Sound”***                    **VU 29**

### **The Good News Time**

🎵 Hymn:                    ***“People, Look East”***                    **VU 9**

### **The Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, too often we descend into the deep valleys of this life and find ourselves stuck in their shadows. The hills and mountains around us seem to hem us in as walls in a prison. In our anxiety, it is easy to convince ourselves that there is no way out, no way forward. Forgive us when our fears tell us to hunker down and turn inwards. Remind us that from the depths, you will lift us.

Merciful God, too often we find ourselves balancing in the heights, feeling as though there are no ropes or nets to catch us. The perspective seems solitary, and we feel trapped, afraid of falling. In our anxiety, it is easy to convince ourselves that there is no way down, no way forward. Forgive us when our fears tell us that any move we make will be disastrous. Remind us that you will not let us fall but will bring us to humility and safety.

Gracious God, from all of the places of fear in our lives, speak comfort to us, call us to prepare our way back to you. Remind us that even in the wilderness moments of our lives, we will find the way back to you. Forgive us when we act out of anxiety, rather than faith. Forgive us when our human reactions of fear, anger, and vengeance close us off from the ways of peace that you desire for us. Open our eyes and open our hearts that the path to you might be revealed before us, guiding us in compassion and mercy to your holy and ever lasting peace. **AMEN.**

## Words of Affirmation

The words and deeds of humans are just for a season, only a part of this great Creation. But the grace of God endures forever, filling all that has been, all that is, and all that is to come. In all our seasons, we are called to prepare for our God, who forgives all our sins. Thanks be to God! **AMEN!**

## We Listen For God's Word

### Scripture Lessons:

**Isaiah 40: 1-11** Comfort, O comfort my people.

**Psalms 85: 1-2; 8-13 VU 82** Will you be angry with us forever?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3: 8-15a** The day will come like a thief in the night.

**Mark 1: 1-8** The preaching of John the Baptist.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.*

**Thanks be to God!**

### Message:

🎵 **Hymn: "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness" VU 28**

## We Respond to God's Word

### Offering Invitation

🎵 **Response: "In the Bleak Midwinter" vs. 4 VU 55**

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give him – give him my heart.

### The Prayer of Dedication

We offer our gifts, both tangible and spiritual, to level the ground and make smooth the way ahead. We prepare, not just for our individual relationships with God, but for the wider

community to find comfort and nurture. We offer ourselves, our minds, and our hearts to reveal the presence of God in our midst. May the glory of God be revealed to us and in us. **AMEN!**

### **Prayers of the People**

Merciful God, speak comfort to us. We are waiting for situations to change. For diagnoses. For treatments to work. For the start of a new life. For the end of suffering. For peace to come into this world. We are waiting for the one who cries in the wilderness. We are waiting for the Messiah – for God-with-us to enter this world. Sometimes it seems the waiting will never end. Sometimes it seems that we are stuck in this season of our lives: that the mountains are too high, the valleys too low, the road too rough and winding. We fear that we cannot move forward.

Merciful God, speak comfort to us. Not in the red and green and of shop windows and clichéd Christmas clothing, but in the blues and purples of Advent waiting. In the colours that shift the nighttime of our souls to reveal a brilliant dawn. Speak tenderly to us, in our fear and our pain, remind us that you stay with us no matter how much we might turn away. Call us not merely to wait, but to prepare for the ways that you will enter anew into our lives. Help us to redefine our situations; to see the smooth, level path into your presence, rather than the peaks and valleys of our human lives. Merciful God, speak comfort to us.

For you are here: Our God, our shepherd. You are here, holding righteousness and peace, steadfast love and faithfulness. You are here, and from this time of waiting and preparation, your glory shall be revealed, even to mere mortals. You are here, and even we shall know peace, through your nurture and care. Merciful God, speak comfort to us. We are waiting and preparing for you. **AMEN.**

🎵 Hymn:

*“Arise, Your Light is Come”*

VU 79

## **The Closing Words**

Peace be with you. Righteousness be in you. Comfort be among you. Faithfulness be around you. Go out into the world Reminded of God's steadfastness Revealing God's glory Redefining this season of waiting into preparation for the dawn of God's holy light.

### **♪ Sung Blessing: "Go Now in Peace"**

**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 he 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 from above,  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

### **♪ Postlude**

*Our Worship Ends – Our Service Begins*

**✠ *As church, we are called to pray for each other  
and for our mission in the world* ✠**

Quyon United Church



## **Announcements**

### **Question of the Day:**

**How do you navigate between the cultural Christmas and the Christian Advent / Christmas in this season?**

### **Nursing Homes / Seniors' Homes Services:**

**All Nursing / Seniors' Home Services  
are cancelled until further notice.**

*The United Church of Canada gratefully acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.*

*Our vital, innovative, and healing ministries are supported by generous Mission and Service donations.*

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**Genesis Cooperative Community  
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**Minister: Rev. Phyllis Dietrich**

**Administrative Assistant: Gabrielle Becker**

**Administrative Office Hours:**

**Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Announcement Deadline: Wednesday @ noon**

December 6, 2020

### Leading the Way

Mission & Service-funded global partner the World Student Christian Federation–Africa Region gives university students a place to come together in education, faith, and activism.

WSCF-Africa empowers and connects responsible young leaders around the world on their path to change tomorrow. It encourages a culture of democracy to mobilize youth to become proactive in society, promoting positive change through dialogue and action between different traditions and cultures.

At a gathering, one of the World Student Christian Federation members shared these words:

As young people, we ask the churches not to spread hate speech or judgment but to preach love, peace, and acceptance for all people as God's creation. We ask our churches to take part in interfaith dialogue, to start building relationships with members of other faiths, so that we may come to understand their beliefs and accept them as brothers and sisters. We ask our churches to acknowledge that we cannot master the truth; we can only approach the truth. Only God holds the truth. As the present youth, we are the church of the future. Because of this, it is important for the churches to communicate with us and to ensure that our opinions are heard. It is part of the role of churches to promote human dignity and to serve the common good.

We are thankful that Mission & Service is in partnership with the World Student Christian Federation and its vision of changing the world for the better.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

***Mighty and tender God, our gifts to M&S help your church to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.***