

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

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

**Sunday November 27, 2022
First Sunday in Advent
Holy Communion at East Hawkesbury**



Worship Leaders Today

Trinity / Cassburn	9:30/11:00	Martin Reichert
Alexandria / Kirk Hill	9:15/11:00	Deborah Suddard
Pendleton	10:00	Connie Woloschuk
Dalhousie Mills	11:15	Gabrielle Becker
E. Hawkesbury (C)	11:15	Rev. Phyllis Dietrich

*“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

The Life and Work of the Church

Minute for Mission

♪Sung Introit: “Hope is a Star” vs. 1 VU 7

*Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.*

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.*

The Call to Worship:

Brothers and sisters, awake, awake! **What time is it?** The night is far gone, and the day is near! **What time is it?** Salvation is near! How should we live? **Let us lay aside the works of war.** Let us put on the armour of peace. **Let us live honourably. Let us worship God!**

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Come and let us build a new creation because the world feels bleak. Salvation is nearer to us than it ever has been before but right now – in this very moment – as the great season of Advent begins it feels like we might never learn war anymore.

In the bleakness of this moment, we yearn for light that shines through all our fears as a beacon for all people. That light comes into the world and is never extinguished. We need light to hold on to that hope and so today we begin with one candle for our HOPE.

With this one light, we pray: O God, we place this light in this holy space as a reminder that we are on this journey together. Be light along all our paths. Lead us to a more just world and help us to stay awake and present to your love in each ordinary day. **AMEN!**

(The Hope candle is lit.)

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

The Prayer of Confession:

Gracious and Almighty God, you know that we fail to live as you would have us fully live, and we fail to love as you would have us fully love, and the result is a world where so many live in various kinds of conflict. Consumed by the worries of the world, we struggle to think about anything other than ourselves and our own. It seems our failings only fuel our bad habits of forgetting about you. We lay before you, Holy God, our broken promises, hurtful words, bad intentions, and sinful ways, that you might somehow love us into wholeness and help us take small steps towards your greatest peace. We pray in Christ’s name.

The Words of Affirmation:

Friends, hear the Good News. Our gracious God gathers us from our warring ways and grants us the freedom to join God’s new vision of a peaceful world. Friends, we are free from the prison of war, free to construct peace. I declare to you now that in Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven!

🎵 Hymn: ***“Let There Be Light”*** **VU 679**

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Lessons:

Isaiah 2: 1–5 Swords into ploughshares.

Psalms 122 VU 845 With joy to God's house.

Romans 13: 1–14 Wake up! The day is near.

Matthew 24: 36–44 No one knows the hour.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Message:

🎵 Hymn: *"There's A Wideness in God's Mercy"* VU 271

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 my heart.*

The Prayer of Dedication:

God, may our gifts to you – these ordinary gifts of the work of our lives – be used for extraordinary things. We dedicate what we receive to your work for peace, justice, and hope in the world. May our gifts, no matter how small, help us take small steps towards your greatest peace. **AMEN!**

**The Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer /
Holy Communion at East Hawkesbury:**

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

🎵Hymn: “O Day of God, Draw Nigh” VU 688

The Closing Words

🎵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* ✠**

**The People of Atlantic Canada;
The People of Ukraine;
MacKay United Church, Ottawa, ON**



Announcements

Question of the Day:

Romans 13: 11-14 Wake up! The day is near, Paul urges. Creation is placing before us the same notice. Will we pay attention?

Nov. 29: A meeting of the **Genesis Executive** will be held on **Tuesday, November 29 at 7:00 pm** at the Genesis Office.

Dec. 11: Cassburn is holding their annual **BAKE SALE and AUCTION** on **Sun. Dec. 11** after the service. The funds raised will support "Operation Ukrainian Safe Haven", an effort to support those arriving in Canada that have been displaced by the war. This effort provides support such as housing, employment & financial assistance. **Special envelope donations will be collected: Dec. 4th, 11th & 18th.**



Dec. 11: Champlain Chamber Choir will hold a concert at **Knox Presbyterian Church** in VKH on **Sunday, Dec. 11** at **3:00 pm**. Free will offering in support of the choir.

Dec. 11: Our own **Katie (Smith) Ditschun** will be giving a concert on **Dec. 11 at 7pm** at the **Alexandria Church** (The Church on the Hill) entitled **"Peaceful Christmas - an intimate concert with Katie Ditschun"**. The Concert will begin with a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. **Special guest, Bob Cleary** will join the sing-a-long and play a couple songs for us, too. This is a *Christmas Fundraiser - Free will offering at the door*. Join us for tea and coffee in the hall after the concert. (Katie will have her CD's available for purchase: a great stocking stuffer!!)



Christmas Eve Service Schedule:

Dec. 23:

Christmas Eve Eve – E. Hawkesbury 8:00 pm

Dec. 24:

Dalhousie Mills: 4:00 pm

Trinity (VKH): 6:00 pm

Alexandria: 7:00 pm

Cassburn: 8:00 pm

Kirk Hill: 8:15 pm

Pendleton: No Service

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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



Your gifts will be put to work in the areas where they are needed most.

People facing the worst crisis of their lives urgently need our support.

- While some refugees are returning to Ukraine, over 6 million are still displaced and have no home to return to.
- COVID-19 cases are starting to rise again, and some countries still have no access to vaccines or boosters.
- In Africa, food prices are soaring, leaving 146 million people hungry.
- Entire communities in Pakistan are left without shelter, farmland, healthcare facilities, and basic necessities of life because of flooding and landslides.

After the headlines fade, the emergency remains. You can help.

November 29 is Giving Tuesday, a day that is all about generosity. This year, Giving Tuesday gifts will support the United Church's vital emergency response work. Your gift will help provide critical support like food, water, shelter, personal care, rebuilding efforts, and trauma counselling.

Your gifts will be put to work as soon as they are needed in the areas where they are needed most. And your support will be there to help rebuild long after the headlines fade. Every gift counts.

Make a life-saving gift this Giving Tuesday.