

**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, Pendleton, Trinity (Vankleek Hill)***

**Sunday November 28, 2021
*First Sunday of Advent***



1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Worship Leaders Today

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

Deborah Suddard
Martin Reichert
Merle Marjerrison
Carolyn Ruda
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

Life and Work of the Church

Minute for Mission

♪Sung Introit: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” VU 2

*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.*

The Call to Worship:

We are people of a promise – God’s promise.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

From ancient times, God has promised to be with us.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Even though we know Emmanuel has come, in this Season of Advent we experience the waiting all over again.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Together, we wait for God’s reign of righteousness, justice, and peace. We wait for Emmanuel – God with us.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Lighting the Advent Candle: Waiting / Hope

Reader One: We feel like tired and scared shark hunters, alone on a boat in the middle of sea. We don’t know if we have the strength to face what is before us, hunting us, hurting us.

We huddle around a table in this hold of a leaky vessel, and we sing what comes to mind.

Reader Two: Show me the way to go home, I'm tired and I want to go to bed. I had a little drink about an hour ago and it's gone right to my head. Wherever I may roam on land or sea or foam, you can always hear me singing a song: show me the way to go home.

Reader One: Home. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a branch that will be raised. Jesus spoke of a Son of Man that will descend. Both point to a hope – a hope that calls us home. Our true home, where we're welcomed and loved and included, where there is justice and equality and peace. It's time, this Advent season, time to go home.

Reader Two: We light this candle, as a sign of our hope, our strong hope that there is a way to go home. To the home in Christ, and it starts with us, and it starts here, and it starts now. It's time to go home.

Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.

🎵 **Hymn:** **“Rejoice, The Lord is King”** **VU 213**

The Prayer of Confession:

Sometimes, we look around at all that you have entrusted to us, and we feel uneasy, O God. On land and water, high and low, where your creatures once teemed and filled the air with cries of joy, we now hear eerie silence. Forgive us for not being signs of new hope, O God. Non-native species invade and mar our native landscapes, a sea of hungry faces, hour upon hour of television full of activity yet somehow empty of content. Forgive us for not being signs of new hope, O God. Likewise, when we look within, we are often uneasy, aware of our failure to love each other, and your creation, and ourselves. Forgive us for not being signs of new hope, O God. Transform our hearts and set us on pathways of justice and righteousness, that we might turn and be servants of healing for our world.

Words of Affirmation:

Despite all we have done, God has not forsaken us. As surely as the bud unfolds and calls forth the spring and the harvest, so God transforms our lives anew. We are forgiven. Rejoice and serve God with gladness.

🎵 Hymn:

“Lead Me, God”

VU 662

We Listen for God’s Word

Scripture Lessons:

Jeremiah 33: 14-16: A righteous branch from David’s line.

Psalms 25: 1-10 VU 752 To you, God, I lift my soul.

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13: How can we thank God adequately?

Luke 21: 25-36: Signs in the heavens; parable of the fig tree.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Message:

🎵 Hymn:

“People, Look East”

VU 9

We Respond to God’s Word

Offering Invitation:

We live in the wonderful reality of God’s promise. We live in the joyous hope of God’s new day. Let us give thanks to God as we share our gifts and make an offering.

🎵 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:

God of mercy, of hope, of promise: accept these gifts we offer to you, in thanksgiving for all that you have done for us. You journey with us wherever we go, and you promise to bring us into new days and new ways. We dedicate our gifts and our lives to service in Christ's name. **AMEN.**

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

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

Announcements

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

Adamston Pastoral Charge
Renfrew, ON



Question of the Day:

What signs do we need to be paying attention to right now in the environment, locally and globally?

Sock-A-Lot for Advent is back! The cold winter is coming! Start collecting socks for the food banks this week through Dec. 19. Let's keep those toes warm and cozy!

Craft and Art Winter Wonderland ~ Knox-St. Paul's United Church 800 - 12th Street East, Cornwall, **Sat., December 4, 2021, 9 am – 2 pm.** Crafters and Artists wanted - \$25 a table. To book a table or for more information contact Carolyn Ruda 613 932-2415 carolynruda@gmail.com

Turkey Dinner: The **VKH Curling Club** is holding a drive-through pick-up Turkey Dinner on **Saturday December 11**, from **4 to 7 pm.** The cost is **\$20 per meal.** More information is available on their website (vankleekhillcurlingclub.ca), or Facebook page, including payment options.

Nursing Homes / Seniors' Homes Services:

Heritage Lodge VKH, Dec. 15 @ 10:30 am

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

Announcement Deadline: Wednesday @ noon



Minute for Mission

Give the ultimate gift—the gift of life.

For many of us these days, hope comes in a syringe. And Giving Tuesday on November 30—just around the corner from Hope Sunday—is a good time to share it. The COVID-19 crisis won't end for anyone until it ends for everyone. And in some parts of the world, no end is in sight.

Our Mission & Service partner ACT Alliance reports that out of all the vaccines administered around the world, less than 2 percent reached Africa and less than 7 percent reached South America. Many countries in the Global South and East won't even be able to start a vaccine program until 2022. If this continues, these countries won't reach vaccination goals until 2024...if ever.

Your gifts through Mission & Service continue to contribute food and relief items to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling the distribution of personal protective equipment, and supporting programs to prevent and control the spread of the disease. Through the United Church's Gifts with Vision, we are offering an opportunity to give the ultimate gift—the gift of life. For just \$25, you can save a life by providing a full vaccination to someone in the world who needs one.

Together we can make a difference. If you are planning to make a special charitable gift this Giving Tuesday, please consider offering the gift of full vaccination. And thank you for faithfully giving through Mission & Service. Your ongoing support truly does help save lives.