



November 28, 2021

Advent 1 (Hope)

Life and Work of the Congregation

A Time of Quiet Preparation

WE GATHER

Introit: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel **VU 1** (adapted by Rev. M.Speer)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, to comfort us and make us well.

We mourn in captive exile here, until the Child of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee and with thee dwell.

Call to Worship

One: Surely, God is in this place.

All: Help me notice.

One: Come, begin the journey of Advent.

All: We journey in hope.

One: Come, welcome the light of the world.

All: We gather in hope.

One: Come, celebrate the presence of God.

All: We worship in hope.

Shalom: *We exchange a greeting of "shalom" – An ancient word of faith meaning peace, wholeness, wellness, blessing...*

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound (v.1,3,4) **VU 29**

*Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.*

*He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace to bless the humble poor.*

*Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.*

Prayer of Invocation and Transformation (unison)

We enter, O God, into this season of preparation and anticipation, longing to skip ahead and celebrate the coming of your light into our darkness – but you would have us first slow down, breathe deeply, and prepare ourselves to receive your gift. We know that your Holy Spirit comes in powerful and unexpected ways, and so we pray we might recognize you moving in and through the season, seeing the face of hope as it shines.

Standing in your light, hearts broken open, acknowledging our humanness, seeking transformation, savouring your Holy Presence, we pray...

(a moment of contemplation)

One: God hears, forgives, makes whole, renews, and loves. Breathe deeply of God's shalom, and be God's.

Hymn: My Hope Is In the Lord

*My hope is in the Lord, who has renewed my strength
When everything seems senseless, my hope is still in him
Who has made heaven and earth, and things seen and unseen
Whatever shade of passing day, my hope is still in him
My hope is in you Lord, my hope is in you Lord*

*For I know that my eyes shall see you, in the latter days to come
When you stand on this earth with my lips I will confess
That the hope of my heart is come, that the hope of my heart is come
That the hope of my heart is come*

Candle Lighting & Kids Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3:3-13 (MSG)

3-5 Troubles should not come as any surprise to you. You've always known that we're in for this kind of thing. It's part of our calling. When we were with you, we made it quite clear that there was trouble ahead. And now that it's happened, you know what it's like. That's why I couldn't quit worrying; I had to know for myself how you were doing in the faith. I didn't want the Tempter getting to you and tearing down everything we had built up together.

6-8 But now that Timothy is back, bringing this terrific report on your faith and love, we feel a lot better. It's especially gratifying to know that you continue to think well of us, and that you want to see us as much as we want to see you! In the middle of our trouble and hard times here, just knowing how you're doing keeps us going. Knowing that your faith is alive keeps us alive.

9-10 What would be an adequate thanksgiving to offer God for all the joy we experience before him because of you? We do what we can, praying away, night and day, asking for the bonus of seeing your faces again and doing what we can to help when your faith falters.

11-13 May God our Father himself and our Master Jesus clear the road to you! And may the Master pour on the love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone around you, just as it does from us to you. May you be infused with strength and purity, filled with confidence in the presence of God our Father when our Master Jesus arrives with all his followers.

Message: Xmas – Cancelled

WE RESPOND

Hymn: Pour Over Me

*Your love, shining like the sun, pouring like the rain,
Raging like the storm, refreshing me again. Ooo, I receive your love.*

*Pour over me, pour over me, let your love flood this thirsty soul.
Pour over me your waves of love, pour over me.*

*I come and lay my burden down gladly at your feet,
I'm opening up my heart, come make this joy complete; Ooo, I receive your peace.*

Prayer (w/Lord's Prayer)

Offering

Generous God, in this season where we celebrate the gift of Jesus, may our giving be like yours – loving, helping, healing, holy, and bringing light and love to those who receive. Amen.

***Hymn:** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear **VU 44**

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold,
'Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife, to hear the angels sing.*

*For, lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

***Benediction**

***Closing:** Hope Be With You **MV 215**

*Hope be with you, hope forever, hope be with you my friends.
Till we meet again, may God be with you. Hope, hope, hope.*

Reverse Advent Food Drive: Starting November 28 we are challenging you to give a reward on each day of Advent. By reward, we are talking about collecting a food item a day and putting them all together in a box which will be donated to The Backdoor Mission. Children and youth are encouraged to decorate your boxes!

Packages are being collected on December 22nd. We are asking that you drop them off at Faith United Church, on that day, or let us know if you require it to be picked up.

It's EASY to Donate to our Well Drilling Project

Use your offering envelope or a separate cheque payable to Faith United.

1. Write "Lifewater" or "Well" on your cheque.
2. Take as many "Thank You" cards as you need to give to people who you made a donation on behalf of.
3. You've just given life this Christmas!



ECO Regional Council Prayer Cycle – Cold Springs

Faith United Mission Statement

We believe in a loving and forgiving God, shown to us through Jesus Christ, creation, the bible, and the community of believers.

Therefore we will:

- strive to provide a spiritual home that is openly welcoming, nurturing and safe whatever a person's ability/disability, age, ethnicity, exceptionality, gender identity, sexual orientation, or social or economic circumstance;
- seek to become disciples of Christ growing in faith through worship, study and prayer;
- risk sharing our resources with local and global neighbours in response to God's call;
- be committed to the responsible use and care of all that God has entrusted to us;
- encourage all who gather here to participate freely in the life and work of this church.

Let our actions reflect our faith.

Minister: Rev. Dr. Larry Doyle B.Mus, B.Ed, M.Div, D.Min

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Doug Snell B.A, M.Div

Music Facilitator: Zeljka Colic B.Mus

Guest Musician: Diana Chappell

Children, Youth & Young Family Leader /

Office Administrator: Stacey Tremblay

Custodian: Nyron Broomes

