

First United Church

December 4, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Advent



Purpose: Building Relationships,
Living God's Transforming Love.

***A Christian response to Indigenous-Settler Relations,
Ableism and Social Prejudice***

16 William Street West,
Waterloo ON N2L 1J3

Office: 519-745-8487 x 201

Email: office@firstunitedchurch.ca

Web Site: www.firstunitedchurch.ca

Chair of the Board: firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com

*A Christian response to Indigenous-Settler Relations,
Ableism and Social Prejudice*

- Congregation is invited to participate as you wish

Prelude Chorale prelude on "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland"

J. S. Bach

Listening as we Gather

Acknowledgement of the Land

Welcome and Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship

- White Gift Sunday

- **Introit:** In Silence we Wait (candle lighters come forward) (Debbie Lou)
In Silence we wait,
in darkness you come to us;
Bring us your light.

Lighting the Candle of Peace:

Rick and Jana Heemskerck

One: O come all you peaceful and come all you stressed out:

All: we are here to feel the glow of peace.

Another: As we light the candle of peace, we take a deep breath in and out and remember the meaning of Christmas. We breathe out and let go of the busyness of shopping, cleaning, cooking, and baking. We breathe in the peace of the Christ child, that new baby smell.

The second candle is lit.

All: "Hope Is a Star" (vs 2)

VU 7

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. R

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.

- **Call to Worship**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God! Sing glory to the One who made all things!

People: How awesome are the deeds of the Great Creator! We are all God's children. We all have unique gifts and graces.

Leader: On this Second Sunday in the Advent Season, the season where we anticipate the one who brings us hope, peace, love, and joy, we especially give thanks for the gifts and graces of people with disabilities. May we learn from one another

People: Holy Spirit, please enter our hearts and our time of worship. Help us to be a truly inclusive and welcoming place for all God's children. Let all the earth worship the Lord in love and unity! AMEN

- **Opening Hymn** Hark the Glad Sound

VU 29

Moment for Children and Young at Heart
The Mitten by Jan Brett

Family Choir Shine, Advent Candle, Shine. Jean Anne Shafferman

Listening For God's Word

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-4 (Reader: Cathie Savage)

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

One: Herein is wisdom.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 122 (Cathie Savage) VU 845

Refrain: With joy we go to God's own house and enter with a song.

One: I was glad when they said to me:

ALL: Let us go to the house of God.

One: And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

All: Jerusalem is built as a city bound firmly together.

One: There the tribes go up, the tribes of God, to give thanks to the name of God,
as was decreed for Israel.

All: There the thrones of justice stand, the thrones of David's house.

Refrain: With joy we go to God's own house and enter with a song.

One: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May those who love you prosper!

All: May there be peace within your walls, prosperity within your palaces!

One: For the sake of my kin and friends I say: Peace be with you!

All: For the sake of the house of our God, I will seek your good.

The Gospel Luke 7: 36-50

(Reader: Dr. Laura MacGregor)

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.

³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[a] and the other fifty.

⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

⁴³ Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.

⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus the Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Ministry of Music: *Veni Emmanuel*
 Gallery Choir

arr. Tom Fettke.

Sermon The Cruise Ship and the Dinghy

Dr. Laura MacGregor

• **Hymn** Light dawns on a weary world

1. Light dawns on a weary world when hearts begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawn on a weary world: The promised day of justice comes.

Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands; The dry lands, gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out with joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom

2. Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.

Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!

We shall go out with joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom

3. Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn,
Find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.

Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out with joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Not on screen

Invitation: Knowing that everything in life worth having, including life itself, comes from the hand of God, let us out of a grateful heart give back to God for God's work in the world.

Offerings are received through a number of ways, as you will see on the screen. There is a plate at the back of the church as well.

Prayer of Dedication

ALL: *Let us Pray:*

God of abundance, We thank you for your blessings.

We ask that you accept our humble gifts,

Through Jesus Christ, AMEN

Prayers of Confession, Intercession, and Thanksgiving (Dr. Allen Jorgenson) not on screen

We come here this morning in our weakness, brokenness, and imperfection — knowing that we have failed to hear those crying out for help, to see those whom we choose to ignore, to speak out against injustice, to understand what is really important in life, or to move forward in your will for us.

We come here this morning each one of us with our own share of pain, loss, disappointment, and helplessness — hemmed in by barriers and obstructions over which, it seems, we have little control.

But we also come this morning in gratitude and in faithful expectation knowing that your love and forgiveness, grace and strength, are abundantly available for all of us and that in you all things ultimately work together for good.

Whatever our physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual condition, help us look beyond differences and recognize humanity in all of your children.

Help us to hear your “still, small voice” comforting and guiding us.

Help us to promote reconciliation and peace in words and in actions.

Help us to comprehend that which is true, right, and good.

And help us to break down barriers and remove obstructions

that we might move towards a fuller, more loving relationship with you and with others.

We also ask your blessing upon all those who cannot be here this morning.

We pray for those incapacitated by illness or injury and confined to hospital beds, nursing homes, or their own homes,

that they might find the help and healing they need.

We pray for all caregivers who in serving others serve your Son.

May we see the face of Christ reflected back at us whenever we encounter another human being. Please preserve us from the sins of ableism, racism, sexism, and xenophobia.

On Screen People: O God, please help us not to judge others on the basis of ability, appearance, or socioeconomic status. Make us truly wise. Help us not to see as the world sees but instead to look with the eyes of our hearts. Amen.

Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples and friends.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father (and Mother), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kin(g)dom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

for thine is the kin(g)dom, the power and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

Refrain

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one is alone,
singing side by side, draw the circle wide.

1. God the still-point of the circle,
 'round whom all creation turns;
 nothing lost, but held forever,
 in God's gracious arms.
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
 so encompass great and small;
 let our loving know no borders,
 faithful to God's call.
3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,
 than we've ever dreamed before;
 let the dream of Christ be in us,
 open every door.

Blessing and Benediction: **Not on screen** (Lee Willingham)

Go now with the peace of God resting upon you. Go with the love of Christ dwelling within you.

And depart with the presence of the Holy Spirit abiding in your heart, mind, and soul. Amen.

Sung Benediction: Peace Shines As A Solitary Star
 words on screen Dr. Debbie Lou Ludolph

MV 220

Peace shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"

Page C. Long

Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

A PhD in theology from St. Michael's University College at the University of Toronto was conferred in 2003.

Allen joined Martin Luther University College (formerly Waterloo Lutheran Seminary) in 2005. Prior to that, he taught at Luther in an adjunct capacity and served as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada for 14 years.

Allen's research interests include studies in the theology of Martin Luther, the famed church reformer of the sixteenth century, and the theology of Friedrich Schleiermacher, the nineteenth-century theologian sometimes called the Father of Modern Theology.

Additionally, he explores disability theologies, how contemporary theology can be informed by Indigenous worldviews, and the manner in which religious pluralism informs modern theology.

Dr. Debbie Lou Ludolph

Dean of Keffer Chapel; Director, Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song; Instructor, Practical Theology.

She states: "I successfully defended my doctoral dissertation — as part of Martin Luther University College's PhD in Human Relationships program, field of Pastoral Leadership — in January 2021. I received my Master of Arts in Theology degree from Luther in 2009, when the school was known as Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, and my bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1982. Prior to working full-time at Luther, I performed in the musical theatre industry; taught vocal pedagogy, musical skills and voice at Laurier and in the community; and led music and worship at conferences and retreats. In addition to teaching, I co-ordinate worship in Luther's Keffer Memorial Chapel."

Dr. Laura MacGregor

Laura successfully defended her PhD dissertation in Human Relationships at Martin Luther University College-Wilfrid Laurier University in 2019. She completed an MA in Christian Theology at Luther in 2011, when it was known as Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Laura's research, emerging from her own experience of mothering a child with disabilities, focuses on mothers and parents of complex-care children. Her MA work explored the spiritual journeys of parents of medically fragile children, with a particular emphasis on the theological challenges and parental need for pastoral care.