



Welcome to worship!

Sunday November 29, 2020

Advent 1

***A joint online Zoom worship Service with:
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches and
friends.***

***Worship Leaders:
Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM & Rev. Lionel Ketola, MDiv***

Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

We Joyfully Gather in God's Presence

Words of Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

During this season of Advent, we await the celebration of Jesus' birth – the Word made flesh - who called us to walk on the earth with love and justice. We acknowledge the gift of the land, and the First Nations who are the traditional custodians of the land where each of us gather today.

God of Advent hope, awaken us to new opportunities for reconciliation with our First Nations. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle – Video

We light our First Advent Candles in our homes

O Come O Come Emmanuel VU # 1 Verse One – Gabrielle Untermann & Jane Plewman

**O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

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

Call To Worship

Come, all ye faithful; come, all ye doubtful.
Come, all ye hopeful and weary,
all ye tired and expectant.

We come, open to the presence of the Holy One

Breathe in the Holy Spirit...

breathe out our fears.

Breathe in the Holy Spirit...

breathe out our anxieties.

Breathe in the Holy Spirit...

breathe out all that clutters and distracts...

We worship, grounded in God's nurturing presence.

Opening Hymn: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus VU 2

Video

Opening Prayer

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down! -

we pray - in the words of the prophet.

We await you eagerly, O God.

Lift up our unknowing hearts

and waken our sleeping love

to announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace;

through Jesus Christ, the One who is to come. Amen

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.

Isaiah 64:1-9

64 O, that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those

who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Pastor Steven

Scripture Song: Wait for The Lord VU # 22

VIDEO

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

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

Refrain:

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.

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

3. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.

4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.

Invitation to the Offering

Mission and Service Fund Video

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts:

God of hope, during this season of waiting and anticipation, you call us to stay awake for the coming of your Son. Jesus' love often comes into our lives in quiet, unexpected ways. In gratitude, we commit ourselves to living in a manner worthy of your love; through Jesus, your beloved son. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the church cries to you. Strengthen the church in the land of Jesus' birth. Wherever Christians gather, empower them to proclaim love and defy the powers of evil and injustice. God in you Love.... **Hear our Prayer**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your creation cries to you. Sustain the balance of all living things. Protect the earth from drought, bitter cold, eroding coastlines, fires and floods, that the earth may flourish. God in your love, hear our prayer.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the nations cry to you. Bring justice to the marginalized, courage to peacemakers, wisdom to leaders, and hope to generations who have only known conflict, oppression, or poverty. God in you Love.... **Hear our Prayer**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your people cry to you. Comfort those separated from loved ones by distance, estrangement, or loss, or due to the COVID pandemic. Help us as we care for others and also rely on others for care. We pray especially for ...

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, our congregations cry to you. Guide our worship, service, and outreach, that our hearts and hands may be open in generosity toward others. God in you Love.... **Hear our Prayer**

You hear the cries of our hearts, O God. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbours, in Jesus name, who taught us to pray:
“God, our Mother and Father in Heaven ...”

Closing Hymn: Once In Royal David’s City

VU # 62

We Go Forth to Serve our Neighbours

Blessing:

We are an Advent people
who wait for the fullness of God’s presence among us.
And as we wait,
may God’s healing wings enfold us,
may the promise of Christ’s new day
 inspire and guide us,
and may the Spirit
fill us with Advent hope;
 today and always. Amen.

Sung Blessing: “Go Now In Peace” Emmanuel Methodist Church Choir, Chennai India.



The Season of Advent begins this Sunday November 29!

Prepare for Advent by making your own Advent wreath at home.

See the attached sheet which explains how to build one. Included is a children's colouring page.

Give the Gift of Care this Christmas! A Claremont United Fundraiser for Herizon House

2020 continues to be a year of changes to how we do almost everything. What hasn't changed is the work of Herizon House, a shelter for abused women and their children in Ajax. What also hasn't changed is our desire to help those tired and frightened people have a happier Christmas.

To give them the gift of care this year, we are collecting gift cards so that Herizon House can create a Giving Tree for those women and children. If you are interested in helping us 'give the gift of care', we are suggesting cards from grocery stores, Tim Hortons's, local eateries, Walmart, Visa/Mastercard, Toys'r'Us, etc, in denominations of 25. or greater.

Please bring your **gift cards** to either my house or Tracey May's house **by Sunday, December 6th**, and your Mission and Outreach Team will be sure to deliver them shortly afterward.

Please deliver them to:

Debbie Andersen: 1513 Kodiak Street

Tracey May: 5057 William Street

With love and light,

Debbie Andersen for the Claremont United Church Mission & Outreach Team

Affirming Committee - Volunteers Needed!

Exciting news! Both Goodwood United Church and Claremont United Churches have voted at their recent Board meetings to begin the process of **becoming an Affirming congregation**. An Affirming congregation is a congregation which intentionally, publicly and explicitly (PIE) welcomes, affirms and advocates for the full inclusion of GLBTQ people in church and in society, along with affirming and celebrating the diversity of all people including culture and ethnicity, ability, economic status, etc. **Both churches are seeking volunteers** to serve on their congregation's affirming committee.

- **For Goodwood United Church contact: Shirley Baster**
- **For Claremont United Church contact: Debbie Andersen**

For more information see Affirm Canada's website at:

<https://affirmunited.ause.ca/affirming-ministries-program/>



Goodwood United Church: Online Community Check-in: Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Once our check-in time has come to a conclusion, the group will proceed with our weekly Bible Study / “Conversations about Life”, so feel free to join us for this as well.

Claremont United Church: Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon - Join us for a Zoom “drop-in” meeting
Everyone is invited to join us for these “Virtual Brock Café” Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community.

Joint BOOK STUDY GROUP for all 3 Churches: Join us on Friday mornings at 10:00 am:
“Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips and Suggestions to make Reconciliation a Reality. We begin this book by Bob Joseph this coming Friday November 27th. This group is open to all members of Claremont, Fairbank and Goodwood United Churches, and friends. So please order your copy of both books now! You can join us at any part during the study – ALL are welcome.

PAST WORSHIP SERVICES - are being uploaded to YouTube

We are now live streaming to our YouTube Channel. The service will also be available for watching later. Please use this link to visit the uploaded services site.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HPD2ai10bo-qbNaXvNVtw>

Continued Financial Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation’s ongoing ministries during this time.

- Offerings can be **mailed to the church address** itself
- **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
- You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your online banking. Here is where to send them:

For **Claremont United** send to: treasurercuc@outlook.com

For **Goodwood United** send to: goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation’s ministry.



Find us online! Check out our websites!

Check out our church websites for **new updates** during this time, including Sunday devotions, and information about coping with stress during COVID-19.

www.claremontunitedchurch.com

www.goodwoodunitedchurch.com



Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/goodwoodunited>

<https://www.facebook.com/claremontunited>



PLEASE SHARE THE POSTER BELOW!



**Computer Savvy?
Looking for a
Volunteer opportunity?**

Need Co-op / Volunteer Hours for School?

Claremont, Fairbank and Goodwood United Churches
are seeking a

Geek Squad / Tech Volunteer

to help out with the technical aspects
of our Joint Sunday morning Zoom Worship Services at 11:00 am.

Your time, efforts and skills will help ensure that the
technical aspects of our Zoom Worship Service run smoothly.
Your role could be carried out remotely, from home, if needed.

In return, you would get volunteer hours
& the satisfaction of knowing you made a difference!
Knowledge of MS Word, PPT, and Zoom would be helpful.

Interested? Get in touch!

Contact Rev. Lionel Ketola at: lionelketola@gmail.com

Church phone: 905 649 1363