



Kilbride United Church
Sunday November 28, 2021

Advent One

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Opening Hymn: VU 2 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

I invite you to sing along with the Holy Childhood Schola Cantorum ("school of singing") under the direction of Stephen Schmall and accompanied by organist Robert Vickery. This recording uses the same tune in our hymn books; however, many others use the Welsh tune HYFRYDOL (like in the hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"). [Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus \(Stuttgart\) by Christian Friedrich Witt with descant - YouTube](#)

- 1 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.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Call to Worship:

One: Here in this place we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

**All: Here we will remember his Advent,
his birth in Bethlehem, weak and helpless as an infant.**

One: And here we rekindle our prayer,

"Come, Lord Jesus" as we await his coming as the bright and morning star.

**All: The lights on our tree remind us
of the light of Christ that shines for us.**

One: The sprigs of holly are signs of Christ's passion.

The thorny leaves and stems remind us of the crown of thorns,
the red berries, the blood of the Savior, shed for us...

**All: We come bringing branches of pine and fir,
evergreens for wreaths of welcome, and garlands of joy.**

One: May the decorations we offer

engage our senses during the days of Advent

and enliven our praise and worship,

in the name of the child of Bethlehem,

our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymn: VU 6 A Candle is Burning v.1

Steve Johnson posted the first verse of this hymn for Advent 1 at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, WA. He uses a different tune... but you will recognize it, as it is an alternate melody for the carol "Away in a Manger."

[A Candle Is Burning Advent 1 - YouTube](#)

1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Week 1: Hope

Voice 1:

It soon will be Christmas, with snowflakes and bells,
and turkeys and candy, and songs and noels.

Do you know what it means?

Do you know what it meant?

And are you all ready, a hundred percent?

Voice 2:

I know what it means, I do get your drift,
it means I get millions and zillions of gifts.

It means Christmas morning right under the tree
there's all kinds of gifts and they're mostly for me.

Voice 1:

Oh no you're quite wrong, oh no you're adrift
that's isn't my meaning, that isn't my drift.
It's not about millions and zillions at all,
it's not about piles of stuff from the mall
There's only one gift and it's really quite small,
it really is tiny, it really is little,
it's hardly as big as a jot or a tittle.

Voice 2:

Just one little gift, and that is the reason?
Just one little gift for the whole Christmas season?
That really is awful, that really is bad,
I guess you just haven't been reading the ads.

Voice 1:

But wait till I tell you, this news is not sad,
this news is not awful, this news is not bad.
This news is the best news that you've ever had,
this news is awesome and happy and glad.
The gift is a baby, this gift is a boy,
It's all about love, and it's all about joy.
It's all about hope and it's all about peace,
this baby is sweeter than Pieces by Reese!
Now what do you think?
Now what do you say?
Do you think this will be such a bad Christmas day?

Voice 2:

That really is awesome, and now I agree,
this gift is for everyone, not just for me!
I do get your meaning, I do get your drift,
so let's light a candle to honour the Gift!

(the first blue candle is lit)

Advent Song – Hope – tune “Winter Wonderland”

Advent's here – are you ready?
Every year – yes, already!
The cycle comes round,
The Christ to be found.
Join us in the walk to Bethlehem?

Hope's alive — in our living.
Mistakes are made — but there's forgiving.
This Christmas we'll share
Good News everywhere.
Join us in the walk to Bethlehem.

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance:

In this Advent time of waiting, may we be still and let go of expectations that prevent us from experiencing the wonder and grace of your coming. May we let go of the burdens we carry and open our hearts to the hope of God with us, Emmanuel. May we make room for you to enter. Amen

Prayer of Illumination:

Speak to us, Lord.
Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the rejoicing.
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen

Scripture: Luke 3: 1-6, 15-16

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— **2** during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3** He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **4** As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

5 Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

6 And all people will see God’s salvation.”

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. **16** John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Reflection

Hymn: VU 5 All Earth Is Waiting

Coro Adonai, a video tutorial service presenting Catholic songs, posted "Toda la Tierra" by Alberto Taulé in its original language: Catalan, from an autonomous region in Spain. This piece dates from 1972, during a time when Roman Catholics around the world were discovering their congregation voices through utilizing vernacular languages and regional musical styles. Before this time, hymns were largely foreign to the Latin Roman Catholic Mass tradition. Please feel free to sing along in English if you don't know Catalan!

[TODA LA TIERRA \(CANTO DE ADVIENTO\) - YouTube](#)

- 1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
- 2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'
One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
- 4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

Prayer of Dedication/Offering:

Oh God, we give you thanks for our community of faith and we give in gratitude for your watchful presence with us throughout the years. Amen

Prayers of the People:

Advent God, who places hope in the most unlikely things,
in the most unlikely people, in the most unlikely places and in the most unlikely times,
guide us through this Season of Dreaming until your purpose is revealed and your will
is made real. Amen

Hymn: VU 9 People Look East

What a beautiful and creative introduction to this Advent hymn, as performed by the Houston Chamber Choir during their 2013 Christmas at the Villa concert. If you wish

to sing along (all verses except 3), wait until 1:08 to join in – but be ready for an energetic tempo!

[Houston Chamber Choir - People, look East - YouTube](#)

- 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the rose is on the way.
- 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.
- 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.
- 5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

Benediction

Online Postlude: The Hope of Christmas

For this first Sunday in Advent, when the candle of Hope is lit, I found this lovely gem sung by Matthew West, an award-winning American contemporary Christian musician, singer-songwriter, and writer. Be prepared for a heartfelt performance that acknowledges the challenges of our present moment, as West sings, "These days peace on earth is hard to find, / and I need You to remind me one more time: / You're still the Hope of Christmas. . . ."

[Matthew West - The Hope of Christmas \(Official Music Video\) - YouTube](#)

Announcements:

Bethlehem Experience – Sun Nov 19 2-4 pm. To attend, register by email secretary@carlisleuc.ca or by phone 905-689-8630. We are looking for volunteers! If you can help with set-up on Saturday, take-down on Sunday, be a Shepherd, an Angel or a Centurion for the event, please be in touch with Janet, Joan Eagle or Rev. Allison.

Sunday Zoom Coffee Time – Every Sunday at 1 pm join our zoom coffee time. The link is found on Carlisle webpage.

UCW Christmas Bazaar – Thanks to all the hard work of the UCW and all the patrons who made this year's bazaar a success!

Men's Coffee Time – Meet each Wed at 10 am in the parlour at Carlisle church.

UCW – Meet each Wed at 9:30 in the Gathering Room.

Devotional Group – Meet 1st and 3rd Thurs of each month at 9:30 at Carlisle.