

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO**

December 20, 2020



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**We acknowledge that we meet and live
on the traditional territories of the
Mississauga Anishinaabe People.**

**We give thanks for their care for the land
over thousands of years and
for their deep spirituality and
honouring of the Creator and the creation.**

**May we live with respect in God's creation
and in harmony with our neighbours.**



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
December 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to all. May this time of worship touch our hearts and minds and offer hope and promise for the days to come.

PRELUDE: Partita on "The Angel Gabriel" Kevin Sadowski

CHOIR INTROIT: "Came He Not In Fire" arr. by William Smith

WELCOME

GREETING ONE ANOTHER (non-verbally from your places)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Hymn: VU6¹ v.4

A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

PRAYER:² (in unison)

May we welcome you, O God,
into the centre of our living.
When you live in our hearts, we are empowered
to make room for strangers and for friends;
to make room for enemies and for allies;
to make room for ALL our neighbours,
near and far, known and unknown.
We thank you for the blessing and power
of grace-filled love.
May we know better each day
how to generously share the love,
which you birth among us. Amen.

HYMN: VU1³ (1-3) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here

until the Son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. R

O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. R

TIME for the YOUNG at HEART

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

HYMN: VU29⁴ "Hark the Glad Sound"

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 prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

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.

CONNECTIONS

GOSPEL SHARING

CHOIR ANTHEM: "The Angel Gabriel"

F.R.C. Clarke

HYMN: VU14⁶ "To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"

Luke 1: 26-38 Annunciation

To a maid whose name was Mary,
the angel Gabriel came.

"Fear not," the angel told her,
"I come to bring good news,
good news I come to tell you,
good news, I say, good news.

"For you are highly favoured
by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you.
You are on earth most blest,
you are most blest, most blessed,
God chose you, you are blest!"

But Mary was most troubled
to hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying?
It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel's message,
it troubled her to hear.

"Fear not, for God is with you,
and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus,
God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever,
forever reign on high."

"How shall this be," said Mary,
"that I should be with child?"
The angel answered quickly,
"The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly,
your child shall be God's child."

As Mary heard the angel,
she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid,"
she said unto her God.
"So be it, I am ready
according to your word."

VU898⁵ "Song of Mary" (Magnificat) Luke 1: 47-55

**Refrain: To God I lift my soul in praise;
In God my saviour I rejoice.**

My soul proclaims God's greatness.

My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.

For you have looked with favour on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed.

You have done great things for me, O Most Mighty.

Hallowed be your Name!

You have mercy on those who fear you,

I from one generation to another. R

You took action with a strong arm.

You scattered the proud in their conceit.

You pulled the mighty from their thrones.

You raised the lowly.

You filled the hungry with good things.

You sent the rich away empty.

You come to the aid of your servant, Israel,

for you remembered your promise of mercy,

to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah,

and to their children in every age. R

REFLECTION: "Beyond GPS"

HYMN: MV120⁷ "My Soul Cries Out"

My soul cries out with a joyful shout

that the God of my heart is great,

and my spirit sings of the wondrous things

that you bring to the ones who wait.

You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,

and my weakness you did not spurn,

so from east to west shall my name be blest.

Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths
of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. R.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. R.

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from
the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which hold us bound,
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (VU916)

Eternal Spirit,
Earth Maker, Pain Bearer, Life Giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven
The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed

by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
By all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and for ever. Amen

LIFE and ACTION of the COMMUNITY OF FAITH

HYMN: VU59⁸ (1,2,4) "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION

HYMN: VU38 Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

POSTLUDE: Magnificat – Fugato, BWV 733

J.S.Bach

Leading in worship today are Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie; Robert Grandy, Minister of Music; Ted Harvey, Worship Leader; COVID Choir .

Credits:

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²Adapted from Gord Dunbar, *Gathering*, 2020 ACE, 70.

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⁸Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: T. Hawkes' Collection of Tunes, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759. Contributors: ANTIOCH All rights reserved reprinted under One License A-726544.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, December 24

Trinity's Christmas Eve worship service will be offered in recorded form, so that many will be able to worship with us (and we can all sing carols safely from home). If you would like to participate in communion, please have a cracker or piece of bread and wine/juice available prior to beginning to watch the YouTube video. The link for that service will be sent out on December 23.

Sunday, December 27

An Alternative Service, with suggestions for worship at home during the Christmas season, will be sent out via Email on December 23.

Sunday, January 3 Epiphany Sunday

We plan to resume both 'in person' and recorded worship, as long as the health situation allows.

OFFERING

Please make donations to Trinity UC and to the Mission and Service Fund by using Canada Helps, a Canadian not-for-profit organization. Just go to

Trinity's web page <http://trinitypeterborough.com> and click on the "Donate Now" button located at the upper right hand side of the page. Canada Helps will issue you a tax receipt in Trinity's name. Cheques may also be placed in the secure mailbox located beside our main door under the covered portico.

In order to be included on your tax receipt for 2020, all donations must reach the church office no later than December 31, 2020. There is a secure mailbox at the Reid Street entrance where you may drop off your donation.

Giving Envelopes

Church envelopes for 2021 have been prepared and are ready for pick up. If you do not have envelopes and would like a box, please contact the church office and we will prepare some for you.

