



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 6, 2020

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 6, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Welcome to 'in person' worship...and welcome also
to those of you worshipping with us via YouTube.*

*May these offerings of word, music and prayer
help you attend to what the Spirit is sharing with you today.*

Note: *Due to present restrictions, congregation is NOT permitted to sing.
You may hum softly with masks on.*

PRELUDE: Three Preludes on "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"
Michael Burkhardt; Robert Powell, Sigfrid Karg-Elert

CHOIR INTROIT: "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Michael Burkhardt

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING¹

Hymn: VU6 v.2¹

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

Prayer:² (In Unison Softly)

**We come to worship as those created in your
image of self-giving love, O God. Teach us
your steps of harmony and of wholeness
-the rhythms of connection and of interdependence.
As you bless us with peace
rooted in our shared vulnerability,
may we invite others to trust us as companions
along the way of transformation. Amen.**

WELCOME

GREET ONE ANOTHER (non-verbally from your places)

- ◆ **HYMN: VU18³** "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" (Isaiah 40: 1-11)

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass, like a dream, away.

But the word of our God endureth,
whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

EPISTLE READING: II Peter 3: 8-15a

CHOIR ANTHEM: "You Stand Above Time"

Charles McCartha

GOSPEL READINGS:

Mark 1: 1-8; John 1: 6-8; 19-28

REFLECTION: "*Space To Breathe*"

HYMN: VU28⁴ "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness"

Herald! Sound the note of gladness!
Tell the news that Christ is here;
make a pathway through the desert
for the one who brings God near.

Refrain: Sound the trumpet!
Tell the message!
Christ the Saving One has come!

Herald! Sound the note of judgement,
warning us of right and wrong,
turning us from sin and sadness,
till once more we sing the song. R

Herald! Sound the note of pardon!
Those repenting are forgiven;
God receives these wayward children,
and to all new life is given. R

Herald! Sound the note of triumph!
Christ has come to share our life,
bringing God's own love and power,
granting victory in our strife. R

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OFFERTORY:

*Your offering may be placed in the plate, as you enter or leave the sanctuary.
Thank you for your donation.*

◆ **HYMN: VU30⁵** (v.1&3) “Hail to God’s Own Anointed”

Hail to God's own anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, God's reign on earth begun!
Christ comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

Christ comes with justice surely to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

Christ shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying”

Robert Benson

Please remain seated until a greeter comes and indicates that it is your turn to leave the Sanctuary. Please proceed directly to the exit. We appreciate you maintaining safe distancing as you exit. If you require the lift, remain seated and a greeter will let you know the correct time to proceed to the lift. We appreciate your cooperation in moving directly outside and ask that you maintain social distancing, even in the parking lot.

Leading in worship today are Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie; Robert Grandy, Minister of Music; Joe Rees, Worship Leader; COVID Choir this week is Chris Freeman, Glynis Hilton-Devitt, Karla Buckborough, Barb Diceman, Margaret Marris and Dave Freeman. Our sound operator is Doug Watt and the Sunday custodian is Shawn Loucks. The ushers this week are Sherry Oldham, Gladys McDonald and Chris Freeman.

Credits:

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

³ Music © 1938 Henry Hugh Bancroft. Used by permission of Eldred Bancroft.

⁴ Words copyright © 1968 Moir A.J. Waters, Used by permission of Margaret Waters Voices United.

⁵ Public Domain.

CREED FOR OUR ADVENT PILGRIMAGE

I believe in the promise of Christmas
and the importance of celebrating it in the church.
I believe in the God at the centre of Christmas,
whose hope for the world was imagined by prophets.
I believe in Mary,
who sang of turning the world upside down
and who allowed her life to be disrupted by God.
I believe in Joseph,
whose broken heart broke the rules
to do the right thing.
I believe in the smell of the stable -
I believe there is no place where God will not go.
I believe in the shepherds,
those simple ones open to hearing the angels' song.
I believe in the Magi,
the ones outside the faith, outside the community,
who searched out the Holy.
I believe in Jesus,
born in poverty, soon a refugee,
raised in faith, lived seeking justice,
died speaking forgiveness,
rose with a love that could not be stopped.
I commit to use this season
to seek out the Holy
both in God among us,
and in God beyond us.
I open myself to an Advent journey of great joy
that will change my life.

barb janes, Gathering, UCPH

TODAY'S MUSIC

PRELUDES: Today's Old Testament reading, Isaiah 40:1-11 is illustrated by the old Swiss hymn "Comfort, comfort ye, my people". We have three short preludes based on this tune this morning. We start with American composer Michael Burkhardt's rhythmic waltz-like setting.

The recurring right-hand theme will have your toes tapping, until he breaks the waltz-like pattern! We then turn to a serene setting by American composer Robert Powell, with the tune accompanied by flowing eighth-note passages. Finally, a setting by the romantic German composer Sigfrid Karg-Elert. He took the tune and created a "Sarabande", a slow and stately dance. The tune is there, but quite embellished in the right hand.

CHORAL MUSIC: “Prepare the Way of the Lord” is a short canon, also by Michael Burkhardt, from his 1992 collection *Canons for the Church Year*. The text is Isaiah 40:3. It will be sung as a round in several parts.

Prepare the way of the Lord. Make a straight path for Him.

“You Stand Above Time” is a contemporary anthem by Charles McCartha with a text by Julie Myers, based on 2 Peter 3:8-9. In his letter to churches, Peter wrote that false teachers were scoffing at the promise of Christ’s coming again to judge the world. Christ’s return seems delayed because God’s perspective of time is radically different than ours. “With the Lord, one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like a day.” (2 Peter 3:8). The Chancel Choir and I are proud to say that on December 7th, 2014, we gave the Canadian premiere of this anthem right here at Trinity.

You stand above time, where a thousand years a like a single sunrise, and a day like the earth turning a million times.

You don’t rush the sheep of Your pasture; you stand above time. Patiently you lead us onward. You stand above time. We follow you to the clearest of waters, climbing and thirsting to drink from no other, for You stand above time...

Never late in keeping Your promise, You stand above time. Fields of wheat arise and ripen. You stand above time. Angels await Your command for the harvest, watching and ready through daylight and darkness, for You stand above time...

With each new moon, each passing year, Lord, the day draws ever near when You will appear! For you stand above time...

POSTLUDE: To conclude the service today, we have a rousing setting by American composer Robert Benson of one of today’s hymns. “There’s a Voice in the wilderness Calling” is an Advent hymn written by Canadian organist and composer Hugh Bancroft. In Benson’s setting, the tune is heard clearly throughout the piece on either the principal stops of the organ or on a solo stop.

OFFERING

Your donations are appreciated and used carefully to further Christ’s work in the community.

4 ways to Donate

1. **Envelopes** on plate at entrance to sanctuary.
2. Cheques placed in **secure mailbox** beside main door of church
3. **PAR** (pre-authorized remittance monthly). Contact church office and they will make arrangements.
4. Electronically through **e-transfer** or 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 a tax receipt in Trinity’s name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Appeal for YES Shelter

The YES Shelter is a social services organization for youth and families. Their Christmas wish list includes a number of items which we are hoping the congregation of Trinity will contribute to. Items include toiletries, socks, underwear, art supplies and blank journals. A collection box will be placed in the Trinity lobby on Sundays, December 6 and 13. Please drop your items in box containers and they will be delivered to the YES shelter. If you wish to bring a donation into the church during the week, please call ahead to make sure that someone will be here to receive it.

ZOOM Sing-a-longs – Live Event

Join Bob and the choir as they sing our favourite Advent and Christmas Hymns. A document with full instructions was sent out via email on November 30 and will also be posted on the Trinity website Home Page. The date is as follows:
December 17: 7-8 pm Zoom sing a long of Christmas Carols.

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