

Advent One

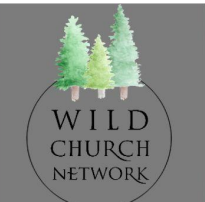
December 3, 2023 + 4pm



Image: "Cloud of Knowing" by Charlotte Walton + AbbeyChurch Advent Artist-in-Residence



**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



We Gather

During this Advent Season, the art kits on the carts at the back and near the lectern are available for folks of all ages to engage creatively.

Opening Loop / Tolling of the Bells Welcome and Announcements Land Acknowledgement

Bell x 3

Sung Invocation: Benedictus (Guide Our Feet)

VERSE

Am D A Em Bm F#

God in all Your ten - der com - pas - sion,

7 Am D A Bm C G B

the Dawn from on high, it will break on us,

15 Am D A Em Bm F#

shin - ing on those liv - ing in sha - dows,

21 Am D A Bm C G B

guid - ing our feet in - to the way of peace. You will

31 Am A B G

guide our feet, You will guide our feet, You will guide our feet in - to

TURN / CODA

43 Am D Em Bm F# Am D Bm C

peace.

The Porter's Gate (feat. Nicholas Chambers & Page CXVI) / Nicholas Chambers / Porter's Gate Music CCLI

Opening Words

Today, as we mark the Advent Path with candle flames,
we light the first candle, the candle of hope....

The first Advent candle is brought forward. Bell. Silence. Bell

Now is the time to wake out of sleep,
for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. **Amen.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing. Folks of all ages are welcome to set the table with
icons and symbols of faith during our opening song...*

Opening Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel (selected verses)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely 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 ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show

and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, o come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

O come thou rod of Jesse's stem,
From every foe deliver them!
That trust thy mighty power to save,
and give us victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Based on the ancient "O" Antiphons / Mason Neale / Public Domain.

As we sing this song we are reminded that "Israel" is both a name for ancient and modern Jewish/Hebrew peoples - and applied to the wider humanity in our struggles. As we invoke these ancient symbols, this is not meant to condone the actions of the current nation-state of Israel.

Poem: Selected and read by poet-in-residence Rebecca Yeo

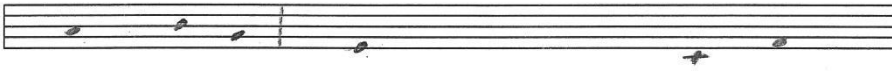
We Proclaim

The Hebrew Scripture

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down, so that the mountains
would quake at your presence—
as 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! When you did
awesome deeds that we did not expect, you
came down; the mountains quaked at your
presence. From 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.
You 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.

We have all become like one who is
unclean, and all our righteous deeds are
like filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities,
like the wind, take us away.
There 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.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

...The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to Go



The Psalm: Psalm 80 - *Qui regis Israel* (chanted)

Please join in chanting as you can.

Hear, o shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we prepare our hearts to hear the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Come to us, Emmanuel we wait for thee with bated breath

And hope-filled hearts and anxious minds. Longing to see your face and worship at your feet

Peter La Grand / Ordinary Time / CCLI

Gospel Reading

Let us proclaim the gospel from the
rooftops!

With our words and with our lives!

A reading from the Gospel according to
Mark

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

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

“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. So also, when you see
these things taking place, you know that
he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell
you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things have taken place.
Heaven and earth will pass away, but my
words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour, no one
knows, neither the angels in heaven nor
the Son, but only the Father. Beware,
keep alert, for you do not know when the
time will come. It 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. Therefore, 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”...

...Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops.

With our words and with our lives

Gospel Acclamation

So come to us Emmanuel - we live in hope of your return.
to bring new life to this old world - to end all wars and to heal all hearts
and to reign forevermore - to reign forevermore

Peter La Grand / Ordinary Time / CCLI

The Sermon

Craig Hiebert

Bell / Silence for meditation / Bell

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith:

Affirmation of Faith / Credo

[together, we say] **We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the church; to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil;
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.** *The United Church of Canada 1968, rev.*

Our Prayers

Chivonne Graff

The Confession

In this season of waiting, in this time of preparation, we long to draw closer to God - to incline our ears to the whispering of the Spirit. Too often, we get in our own way; we make choices that trip us up as we move toward God. Let us open ourselves to God's healing and mercy as we make our confession...

Silence

Holy God, **as we turn to you, restore us again. Mend our hearts, comfort us in our grief, and open our hands. Come to us again, we pray and make us ready to receive you. Amen.**

Beth Merrill Neel. alt.

Absolution / Assurance of God's Grace

The Peace

Beloved community, the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

We acknowledge the peace of Christ in each other.

During the 'offertory' song, the table is set. Contributions to our common life can be placed in the record player in the back of the space. Cheques made out to "The Emmaus Community." Charitable receipts will be issued if you provide your address.

As we prepare for this holy feast we are reminded that all are welcome to receive wherever they find themselves in their spiritual journey. All are welcome as you feel ready.

Offertory: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for, with blessing in God's hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

5th century / Liturgy of St. James / Public Domain

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At Christ's feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, lord most high.

We Celebrate

Prayer Over The Gifts

God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son.

Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, for whom we wait. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving *(chanted)*

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God! **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Holy God, How wonderful is the work of your hands! All of creation echoes the silent music of your praise. When sin had scarred the world, You made a covenant to renew the whole of creation. You embraced a people as your own and filled them with longing for a peace that would last and a justice that would never fail.

Glory to you forever and ever.

Through countless generations, your people hungered for the bread of freedom. From them you came in Jesus, the living bread, in whom all our hungers are filled.

You have sent your Holy Spirit as a mighty stream to refresh and renew the face of the earth. Therefore with the company of heaven and all of your creation we sing:

(sung to the tune of O come o come Emmanuel)

Holy holy hol—y Lord - God of power Go—d of might

Heaven and the earth are full... are fu—ll of your glo—ry, O God

Hosanna, Hosanna! How blessed is the one who comes in the name of the lord

While Jesus was eating with his disciples, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me." **Glory to you forever and ever.**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the wine and after blessing it, poured it, gave it to them and said, "take, this is my blood, do this in remembrance of me.

Glory to you forever and ever.

Holy God we give you thanks for the mystery of faith given to us in Jesus your Child:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (x2)

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Show us your presence in the wilderness and shape us into a people of hope, justice, and love. As grain was scattered across this land then gathered and made one in this bread, so may your church, scattered to the ends of the earth, be gathered and made one in your love. **Amen.**

St. Lydia's Table, alt.

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent, we pray as Jesus taught:

(said in a language, translation or paraphrase of your choice)

Our *Father (*or Parent, or Source) in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Silence.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life of the world.

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free but contains almond flour and dairy. Please ask the server if you would like a non-dairy/almond option. The juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup. Please refrain from dipping the bread.

Communion Song (Pre-recorded): Creator of Orion (Agnus Dei)

Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing used with permission

Communion Song: We Come

Our hearts are empty without you
Barren and cold
But for the bold
Hope that you yourself
Planted within

In the mighty name of God
In the saving name of Jesus
In the strong name of the Spirit

We come. We cry
We watch. We wait
We look. We long for you

Sometimes we long for the morning
For a refrain

From etchings in pain
Yet our loneliness

Draws us to you

Steve Bell / Signpost Music / CCLI

Communion Song: Embrace the Mystery

Behold what you are.
Become what you receive
Take up the bread and wine.
Embrace the mystery

saint benedict's table/Gord Johnson/CCLI

Prayer after Communion *(read by one of the children or teens)*

God. We wait for you. You have fed us with you, the bread of eternal life.

Keep us watching - that we may be ready.

We ask this in the name of Jesus! Amen!

We Are Sent

Blessing

... and the blessing of God...

Closing Song: Soon and Very Soon

Soon and very soon, we are going to see
the *King (*repeat x 3*) Hallelujah,
hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more crying there, we are going to see
the King (*repeat x 3*) Hallelujah,
hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more dying there, we are going to see
the King (*repeat x 3*) Hallelujah,
hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

* or 'kin" -1976 Bud John Songs/Andre Crouch 1976/CCLI

Sending

Go in the hope of Christ, to prepare the way.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Feel free to hang out and grab a beverage or snack as the band plays the postlude.

Postlude: One Thousand Years

A Thousand Years · Ordinary Time from Joy Brand New / Peter LeGrand © MixedMultitudeMusic / CCLI

We'll be back next Sunday at 4 pm.

Coming Up

Weekday prayer, presence and worship

Mondays at 8 pm - Centering prayer with evening prayer. Quadra/Balmoral chapel or on Zoom. Enter from the parking lot at 932 Balmoral. Centering prayer is a contemplative practice of spending 20 minutes in silence within a compline (night prayer) liturgy.

Tuesdays at 8:15 am - Morning prayer at Lynn and Phils and Zoom . Please email for the address/buzzer code or for the Zoom link if you can't make it in person.

Wednesday Communion - 4 pm at Our Place. Meet at the church to walk over together and stay for dinner after (5 pm).

Thursdays at 8:15 am - Morning prayer at Quadra/Balmoral Chapel - in person only.

Thursdays - Helping out with hampers at North Park Neighbourhood Association (AM, on-site)

Friday Morning Prayer at 8:15 am - zoom only.

UPCOMING!

- Sunday, Dec. 10 - **Potluck** after worship
- Thursday, December 14, 7 pm - **Youth Group Christmas Movie**
- Saturday, December 16, 4 pm - **Christmas Sing-Along**
Church courtyard with the North Park Neighbourhood Association + Lending Hub event
- Sunday, December 24, 4 pm - **Christmas Eve Worship**
- Monday, Dec 25th **Christmas Dinner** at 5 pm - *RSVP for details and location*
- Sunday, Dec 31st at 4 pm- **New Year's Eve service** in the way of Taize

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778.557.4166 We would love to connect. *Leaflet is printed on tree-free paper. Please recycle.*