

Northminster United Church

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Sunday, November 29th, 2020

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Presentation - White Gift- Communion

Music as We Gather

Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community

The 61st Anniversary for Doug & Joyce Armstrong

Birthday wishes to June McConnell [97]

Birthday wishes to Wilma Doughty [90]

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: *Hope*

(Madigan, Logan & Jeff Murray)

One: As we enter the Advent Season, we hope for the acceptance of the amazing diversity in our world, a diversity of which we are all a part. We hope to acknowledge and value the growth that occurs as we share our similarities and learn from our differences.

All: We gather in hope. We worship in faith. We light this first blue Advent candle, the candle of hope, as we wait expectantly for Emmanuel – God-with-us. (The first Blue Candle is lit).

One: Let us sing together verse 1 of VU6

“A Candle is Burning”

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

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: In this season of anticipation and expectation, we are reminded that we are preparing for Emmanuel – God-with-us. That presence embodies the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the Holy One this Advent Season. Through that presence we are encouraged to see and travel the pathway to new life.

All: We are blessed. We are forgiven. We are accepted. We are loved.

Hymn: VU2

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

First Lesson:

Isaiah 64:1-9

^{64:1} O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² [a] 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!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ 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.
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.^[b]
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^[b] 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.

Young at Heart Time:

“The Candy Store”

Psalm Selection: VU794 (Part 1) (No Sung Responses)

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

One: Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

All: Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

One: Shepherd of Israel, hear us,

All: you who lead Joseph like a flock, you who are enthroned amidst the cherubim.

One: Shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manessah;

All: stir up your might, come and save us.

One: Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

All: Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

One: God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayer?

All: You have fed us with the bread of weeping, and given us tears in plenty to drink.

One: You have made a mockery of us to our neighbours,

All: and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

One: Let your hand rest on the one at your right hand, on the one you have made strong for yourself.

All: Then we will never forsake you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

One: Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

All: Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

Music for Meditation Organ Instrumental

Dustin Bowers

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 13:24-37

The Coming of the Son of Man

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.

²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then 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.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

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. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^[a] is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert;^[b] for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Kevin: Out of the rich tapestry of our treasured faith stories, we hear the call of our forebears.

All: Let us use hear those stories and respond by living faithfully our own.

Kevin: In the name of the one called, Jesus, Emmanuel.

All: Amen.

Hymn: VU509

“Here I Am Lord”

Sunday School Advent Presentation:

“The Journey to Bethlehem”

The New Creed:

One: Let’s share together in the New Creed:

**All: 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. Amen.**

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts: (The Offering plates and White Gift Basket are found at the doors into the sanctuary, please place your Offering on the plate and your White Gift in the basket as you exit)

Dedication of Our Gifts

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Liturgy:

One: As we come together, the Holy is with us and we gather on this first Sunday in Advent as we prepare for Emmanuel – God-with-us, so let us lift up our hearts.

All: Our hearts sing with praise to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Eternal, who has come to us, and promises to come to us again.

All: For God has remembered us and we are blessed.

One: From the beginning, you were Yahweh. Through the time of leaders and prophets, you were Jehovah.

All: In the days of exile and captivity, you were Compassion. In the room of gathered believers, you were Community. In the years of forgetting the faith, you were Patience.

One: In the age of recalling the promises, you were Forgiveness. From the beginning and always, you are God represented by many names – Yahweh, Jehovah, Blessed Love, Creator, Father, Mother and Holy Peace.

All: Many searched for you, and some found you and through centuries of human witness we received signs of your faithfulness to us. The powerful are brought low; the humble are exalted.

One: Therefore, we remember with our hearts full of thanksgiving and praise, the gift and blessing of your intimate presence in the elements we share:

All: Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy is our God, God of Earth and God of Heaven. Holy, holy is our God, God of all and God of history. Holy, holy is our God, who accompanies our people, who lives within our struggles, of all the Earth and Heaven the one and only God. Blessed be those who in our God's name announce the Holy Gospel, proclaiming forth the Good News: our liberation comes.

One: There are shouts of joy as we are filled by the Spirit of God in Christ and reminded of God's presence in each and every one of us.

All: For in Jesus Christ, grace enters the world blessing all creation with healing, freedom, forgiveness, and justice.

One: In the spirit of Christ let us pray for the needs of the whole world. We remember especially those whose lives are disrupted by forces beyond their control especially the victims of a unpredictable and violent weather, the on-going fight against COVID-19, racial injustice, sexuality and gender oppression... We pray for peace and goodwill among the nations, especially Iraq and Afghanistan, the European Union, Africa, the Middle East especially Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Palestine, United States of America... Let us pray for the earth, as it longs for the promise of God's new creation with sustainable and renewable energy resources, clear, pure water and breathable air... Let us remember before the Holy all who are poor, hungry or cold...all who are oppressed by circumstance or by other people... all who are sick or dying... all who are lonely or frightened... Lastly, let us remember before God in our hearts those who have gone before us, whose company and voices we miss, but who, in the grace and goodness of God's mystery of life and death, still share this celebration with us. With them, and with the multitude of God's faithful of every time and place around the globe, we celebrate the hope and the mystery that is the good news.

All: Jesus, the Christ offers us hope.
Jesus, the Christ offers us peace.
Jesus, the Christ offers us joy.
Jesus, the Christ offers us love.
Jesus, the Christ challenges us into action.

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Peace of Christ:

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

The Preparation:

One: We have on this table, the common things of life – bread to break with each other and wine to quench our thirst. May they be for us as they have been for many, strength and faith, nourishment and hope, blessing and forgiveness.
All: **And may we who come to this table, knowing the presence of that which is beyond all our understanding and which yet resides within our own hearts. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread:

One: We give thanks.
All: **We receive gratefully the bread of life, source of strength and nourishment for the journey of life. As we seek to work free of our burdens, may this bread refresh us.**
One: The Bread of Life, nourishment for heart and soul.

The Lifting of the Cup:

One: Let us again give thanks.
All: **We receive gratefully Blessed One, the cup of life. It can be bitter and it can be sweet, as life is filled with both joys and sorrows. Our hearts are gladdened as we face the mystery of life and living.**
One: The Cup of Blessing, renewal of hope and faith.

The Distribution — *We will all partake together with the elements you found as you were seated.*

Prayer after Communion:

One: The grace of Jesus, the Christ be with us all. Let us pray,
All: **Life-giving Creator, may we, who share this celebration of faith, live life renewed; we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope that you dwell within us and all creation, so that we and all your children shall be free, and all creation will live to praise your name. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: VU55

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: As we move through this season of preparation...
All: **...the Holy moves with us, guiding us ever closer to the manger-side in the Bethlehem of our hearts!**
One: May we share the hope, peace, joy and love of that manger-side with all whom we meet.
All: **Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!**

Music as We Depart

Please remain seated until a Greeter comes and indicates that it is your turn to leave the sanctuary. Please proceed directly to the exit. If you require the lift, please, remain seated and a Greeter will let you know when the correct time is to proceed directly to the lift.

To allow for smooth exiting of the building please refrain from gathering in the hallways and entryways and maintain social distancing at all times, even in the parking lot.

Prayer Cycle

As church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

Regional Council Prayer Cycle
for the week of November 29th, 2020

Cambray Community United Church, Cambray

[*East Central Ontario Regional Council*]

THANK YOU TO THIS SUNDAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Duty	<i>Barry Cowling</i>
Elevator Operators	<i>Doug Armstrong, Dave Sherwin</i>
Ushers/Greeters	<i>Joyce Armstrong, Joan Findlay</i>
Registration	<i>Bev Sherwin</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Lynda Hodgins</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Video	<i>Nelson Pickett</i>
Videographer	<i>Jane Tousaw</i>
Sound	<i>Alex Brunton</i>

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We ask everyone "TO REGISTER" for Sunday Worship Services [each week] through "Eventbrite" found on the website www.northminsteruc.ca or by calling the church office. Registering in advance is necessary to ensure a seat. If you are having difficulties registering, please call the office.

Just a friendly reminder that we all need to be very diligent in making sure everyone uses hand sanitizer upon entering the building and keeping a social distance of 6'. There is to be no physical contact. **MASKS MUST BE WORN PROPERLY, covering the nose, mouth and chin. Visors are not acceptable and scarves "do not count"**. Stay home if you are feeling sick. If you see anyone not complying to the COVID-19 protocols we ask that you would kindly remind them. We need to keep everyone safe!