

**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, December 5, 2021**



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**Ministers: All People of the Community of Faith**

**Woodhouse Organist: Pat Tiller**

**Grace Pianist: Cheryl Copeman**

**Office Administrator: Jackie Misner-Hilton**

**Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Frank Walker, OM**

**Licensed Lay Worship Leader: Heather King**

**Volunteer Associate Minister: Rev. Sheena Riley-Marini**

**Pastoral Charge Minister: Rev. Kathryn Vance, DM**

**Cell: 519-717-7426 or [kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca](mailto:kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca)**

**Office Hours 9:00 am – 11:30 am (Mon. – Thurs)**

December 5 2021

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

### We Gather to Worship

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Joke

**The Bible is Opened and Christ Candle Lit**

**Call to Worship**

Advent, a time for reflection:

**we will prepare ourselves  
carefully and prayerfully  
for the coming of Jesus.**

Advent, a time of wonder:

**God loved the world so much that  
God sent the wonderful child Jesus.**

Advent, a time for priorities:

**in the midst of preparations,  
the rush and the worry,  
the light of Christ will shine through.**

Advent, a time for inspiration:

**if God is for the world, with the world,  
and in the world, what can stop God's people  
from changing the world?**

Come, let us open our lives to God.

*David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.*

### **Advent Candle Lighting Week 2 -PEACE**

It is the second Sunday of Advent, the second Sunday of this waiting season. Last week, we spoke about hope. (*Light the first purple candle*) Peace is the theme of this day.

#### **What does peace look like?**

Peace looks like a child playing safely in a place where battle tanks once rumbled and bombs fell. Peace looks like a Palestinian farmer tending his olive grove without worrying that the trees will be bulldozed to make room for another illegal settlement. Peace looks

like an aged veteran who paid the price to spare us the horrors of war. Peace looks like one of our Canadian Forces personnel spending Christmas far from home to keep people safe. Peace looks like a family gathering for the first time after a huge fight, trying to repair the ties that bind. Peace looks like people living their lives, doing their jobs, walking their paths.

### **What does peace feel like?**

That's not easy for us to answer, living where we do, in a country where war is mostly a distant memory for many of us, and we may take peace for granted, but we can try to imagine. Peace feels like being set free from a chaotic and fearful place, like experiencing a flower-filled field after you've been locked in a dirty, damp basement. Peace feels like being able to be who you are without being judged or targeted. Peace feels like a pleasant holiday meal where everyone gets along. Peace feels like splashing in the rivers of justice rolling down from God's holy mountain.

### **What is it like to live in peace?**

Peace looks for the common ground. Peace believes that we humans are more alike than we are different. Peace refuses to rush to judgment; peace tries to see beyond the rumours and the lies. Peace will not compromise with evil. Peace always seeks justice and fairness and the dignity of all people. Without this, there can be no real peace. As we await the coming of the Prince of Peace, we light the candle named Peace. May its light help us find our way.

### ***Light the second purple candle.***

#### **VU # 7 verse 2 Hope is a Star**

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

## Opening Prayer

We pray for hope,  
in a world that sometimes feels hopeless:

**God, grant us a vision of your future,  
so we may have hope.  
Let it give us strength in hard times and  
be a cause for celebration in times of delight. Amen.**

*Ryan McNally, St. Mark's U.C., Cannifton, Ont.*

## Hymn – VU #389 God Is Here

God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us, as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.

God of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

## **Reception of New Members (Grace)**

### **We Listen for God's Word**

Time for the Young at Heart – How does wrapping paper remind you of God?

### **Hymn - VU #595 We Are Pilgrims**

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

God, we come this morning in anticipation and hope, waiting  
for your Word to come alive in our hearts, bringing your  
message of peace and good will to all. Amen.

*Fern Gibbard, for Oliver U.C., Oliver, B.C.*

### **Scripture:**

#### **Philippians 1:3-11**

#### **Thanksgiving and Prayer**

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. <sup>8</sup> God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

#### **Luke 3:1-6**

## John the Baptist Prepares the Way

**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—<sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.<sup>3</sup> He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.

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

<sup>6</sup> And all people will see God’s salvation.”

## Anthem

## Message

### Hymn - VU #18 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

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!

### **We Respond to God's Word**

#### **Offering**

#### **Chorus – VU# 537 Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands**

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,  
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:  
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

## Prayer of Dedication

Giver of the perfect gift, we place before you our gifts in tribute, thanks, and hope for a new tomorrow. May these gifts be used to bring peace to a hurting world. May these gifts be used to bring joy where sadness reigns. May they inspire peace and hope, bringing comfort for all who are in need. Amen.

*Jim McKean, St. Paul's U.C., Orillia, Ont.*

## Minute for Mission

### ***When Sprinkles Saves Lives***

Baby Bok-Ryan was hungry and malnourished. She was severely underweight, and her growth was delayed. Desperate to see her baby's health improve, her mother, O Mi-Yang, signed up to receive a nutritional supplement called "Sprinkles" that are supported by Mission & Service gifts. It helped transform both of their lives. The Sprinkles baby Bok-Ryan now receives regularly aren't the familiar sugary bits of rainbow-coloured confectionary most of us are familiar with. The Sprinkles distributed in North Korea by [First Steps \(opens in a new tab\)](#), a Vancouver-based partner supported by Mission & Service, are [sachets filled with life-saving micronutrients \(opens in a new tab\)](#) in powder form that are added to food.

Since Bok-Ryan has been taking them, she has gained weight and grown taller. Today, she is a healthy one-year-old.

Every day, First Steps provides more than 100,000 children like Bok-Ryan with a daily cup of nutrient-rich soymilk and 20,000 mothers and their babies with micronutrient sachets.

The concern that children living in North Korea—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—aren't receiving life-sustaining nutrition is mounting.

The country has an estimated population of 25 million and has experienced ongoing food shortages since the 1990s. The food insecurity crisis is heightened by successive crop failures, typhoons, and lack of food storage facilities.

Pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children under five years of age are most vulnerable. One in five children living in the country

suffer from stunted growth because their diet lacks sufficient vitamins, fat, minerals, and protein. These children are prone to infections and suffer from rickets, pneumonia, and a host of other conditions. Since COVID-19 struck, the situation has become even more dire due to the closing of borders, which hampers the flow of essential goods. This is in addition to pre-existing trade sanctions.

Sadly, children often suffer the most.

The United Nations predicts that we are on the verge of a global hunger crisis. The UN's latest figures estimate that more than 250 million people the world over will suffer from severe hunger by the end of the year because of COVID-19. That's more than double the number who are suffering now.

Your generous gift to the United Church's **COVID-19 emergency appeal** supports children like Bok-Ryan and mothers like O Mi-Yang across the globe who are even more vulnerable now because of the pandemic.

Thank you for making a difference!

## **Baptism (Grace)**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

**We Take Christ's Message Into the World**

**Hymn VU #48 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!'  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! R

Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. R

## **Benediction and Commissioning**

May the candle of peace burn brightly in our hearts,  
preparing the way for the Christ child.  
May we be the signs of hope in our world,  
as we prepare during this season of Advent.  
And may we always know that we never go alone,  
for God our Creator, Jesus our Brother,  
and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer  
are our constant companions. Amen.

***Wanda Winfield, Blenheim U.C., Blenheim, Ont.***

## **Closing of Bible and Extinguishing of Candle**

### **Go Now In Peace**

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each  
hour of ev'ry day  
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true. Know He will guide  
you in all you do  
Go now in love, and show you believe; Reach out to others, so  
all the world can see  
God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in  
faith and in love.

Amen, Amen, Amen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFICE IS OPEN

Office Hours Monday-Thursday

9:00 am-11:30 am

Feel free to call and leave a message or send an email at any time and we will respond during office hours.

519-583-0342

graceunitedportdover@gmail.com

**For Pastoral Care, please contact**

**Rev. Kathryn Vance**

**519-717-7426**

**kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca**

### **Announcement reminder**

Please submit announcements by end of day Tuesday for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. Thank you!

### ***Stewardship Seconds***

### **December 5, Second Sunday in Advent**

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.  
How do the gifts I generously give help to bring peace on earth?