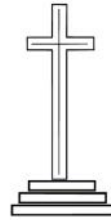


**Welcome to
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
Woodhouse United Church and
Grace United Church
Worship From Home Service
Sunday, November 28, 2021**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge
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Port Dover, ON N0A 1N0
Church Office: 519-583-0342**

Email: graceunitedportdover@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.graceunitedportdover.org>

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

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

November 28 2021

1st Sunday of Advent

We Gather to Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Announcements

Joke -

The Bible is Opened and Christ Candle Lit

Call to Worship

It is Advent,

Jesus is coming, be alert.

In times of joy and abundance,

we are ready.

In the midst of difficulty and danger,

we are ready.

In times of uncertainty and fear,

we are ready.

In times of apathy and despair,

we are ready.

With anticipation and with hope,

we look for God's long-promised one.

We will not be disappointed.

We will not be disheartened.

Jesus is coming and we are ready.

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

Advent Candle Lighting Week 1 - HOPE

We have come again to the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a new year in the life of the church. We will discover the prophet voices calling us to dream of a broken world healed. We will speak the songs of longing and we will wait in hope. Hope is the theme of this day.

What does hope look like?

Sometimes, hope looks like a refugee family arriving at the airport, wondering if they can find a home in this new country. They are full of fears and misgivings, but they know they have to try. Or maybe hope looks like the school kids marching in a call for action on the climate crisis. They know that planet Earth is in danger and that the future looks grim, but they will

not be silent and they are not giving up. It could be that hope looks like a congregation of mostly grey-haired people refusing to close their Sunday School, still trying to make a place and a welcome for new generations. Hope looks like the people we see in the news. Hope looks like the people here beside us.

What does hope feel like?

Hope feels like the first warm day of spring. You know it will get cold again but summer will come. Hope feels like a door that has always been locked and barred moving when you push it. It may only move a little bit and you may wonder if you have the strength to open it, but the barrier has become a possibility. Hope feels like an encouraging word just when you thought you couldn't go on any longer.

What is it like to live in hope?

Hope always looks up, always strains to see the first glimmer of light along the horizon. Hope always listens - always listens to the angel voices of kindness and mercy. Hope doesn't believe the haters and the doomsayers. Hope trusts God. Hope believes that we are God's beloved children. Today, we light the candle named Hope. May its light help us find our way.

Light the first purple candle.

Choir: Hope Is a Star verse 1

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

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.

Hymn – VU #2 Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, we begin this season of Advent with great anticipation of your coming to live among us. This has been a year like no other we have experienced. So much has been outside of our control. And so, we approach this season prayerfully, setting aside the distractions. Protector God, we know you will guide us through the shadows and provide blessed moments that will delight and comfort us. We value this time together when we can focus on your word and its relevance for our lives, while we journey with hope into this season of miracles. Amen.

Anne Mathewson, St. David's Trinity U.C., Saskatoon, Sask.

We Listen for God's Word

Time for the Young at Heart – How does an flower pot remind you of God?

Hymn - VU #6 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.

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.

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

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.

We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

Prayer for Illumination

The Bible has an important place in our faith formation and growth, O God. Help us to hear what you are saying to us through our scripture readings today. Amen

Scripture:

Psalm 25:1-10 Set a good example (James Taylor, Everyday Psalms)

I'm following your footsteps, my Saviour.

I trust you. Do not mislead me.

Don't draw me into difficulties

where others can crow over my humiliation.

Let those who are sneaky and devious
make fools of themselves, Lord.

But I do not want to be one of them.

I want to be like you.

Hold my hand while I learn to walk.

You are my only chance;

I hang all my hopes on you.

I've been told you don't hold grudges;

I have heard you are compassionate.

Don't hold my stumbling against me.

**I have done wrong – but who hasn't?
Except you.**

If you must judge, set us an example;

**show us the compassion and kindness
you expect us to show others.**

Act according to your standards, not the world's.

**Then the humble will learn how to handle themselves,
the broken of body will be able to stand straight,
and the poor can walk proud,
because they walk in your ways.**

Your way is founded on love and faithfulness.

Those who walk with you, learn from you.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will

never pass away.

³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Anthem

Message

Hymn - VU #602 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.

We Respond to God's Word

Offering

Doxology VU #537 both verses 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

God of justice, God of grace, we pray that through this offering we
will begin to be more fully your people. Through these gifts and our
lives, may we help prepare the way of the Lord. In the name of the
One who comes we pray. Amen.

Frances Flook, Emo/Devlin P.C., Emo, Ont.

Minute for Mission—video

Communion

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Christ is present here.

The Spirit is among us.

Let us give thanks to God,

in memory and in hope.

We give you thanks, God of peace and promise.

Through the words of your prophets

and the faith of your followers

you prepare the way of our redemption

and bring hope to birth.

And though we often grow weary of waiting,

your signs call us to keep watch for that day

when all things shall be made new.

In assurance of this hope,

we join with all the company of heaven and earth

to give you praise:

**Holy, holy, holy God,
power of life and love!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!
Hosanna through the ages!
Blest is the One who comes to bring
your justice to earth!**

Blessed is our brother, Jesus,
who, before his suffering, earnestly desired
to eat with his companions
the Passover of liberation;
who, on the night that he was betrayed,
took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:
“This is my body, which is for you.
Do this to remember me.”
In the same way, after supper, he passed the cup, saying:
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this whenever you drink it,
to remember me.”

**Remembering the death
and celebrating the resurrection,
we await with hope the coming again
of compassion and justice to the earth.**

Accept, we pray, these gifts of bread and wine.
Accept both gifts and givers,
for the bread we break and cup poured out
show the wounds of your children,
and all our longings for peace and safety.
Through this celebration of your woundedness and welcome we join our
hearts with theirs.
Let the bread we break
become nourishment and strength for our spirits,
the cup we share
become joy and peace for our souls
in this Feast of New Life.

Help us to love as Christ loved.

Knowing our own weakness,
may we stand with all who stumble.
Sharing in his suffering,
may we remember all who suffer.
Held in his love,
may we embrace all whom the world denies.
Rejoicing in his forgiveness,
may we forgive all who sin against us.

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace,
remembering Christ's life and death,
proclaiming his resurrection,
waiting in hope for his coming again.
Grant that in praise and thanksgiving,
we may so offer ourselves to you
that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Praise be to God, the Source of love!
Praise be to Christ, Love incarnate!
Praise be to the Spirit, Love's power!
Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray together, saying:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.**

Come, for all things are now ready.

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life

Amen.

Jesus Christ, the True Vine

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God,

we give you thanks for the gift of our Saviour's presence
in the simplicity and splendour of this holy meal.

Unite us with all who are fed by the life of Christ

that we may faithfully proclaim the Good News of your love
and that your church may be a rainbow of hope
in an uncertain world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern

We Take Christ's Message Into the World

Hymn VU #64 O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still

the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Benediction and Commissioning

Go from here bursting with good news, filled with courage and hope.

Go into the world with a daring and a tender love* to serve the Lord.

May the grace and peace of God our Creator, through our Saviour Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you this day and forevermore. Amen.

Mary Parsons, Munn's U.C., Oakville, 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