Trinity United Church

**November 29, 2020 First Sunday of Advent**

**Welcome to Trinity United Church. We strive to be a safe community for all; regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, religious affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identification. We are all invited guests of God.**

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**This pandemic has continued to highlight how connected we are to each other. Our history and present is also linked to the indigenous people of Turtle Island who still walk on this land. May we find a shared way of healing the worst of what has happened and foster the best of what might come. May our future relationships bring health, justice, forgiveness and wellness to all.**

**Season of Advent**

**Lighting the First Advent Candle (Hope Is a Star)**

*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.*

**Announcements**

**Hymn 460 All Who Hunger**

*All who hunger, gather gladly;*

*holy manna is our bread.*

*Come from wilderness and wandering.*

*Here, in truth, we will be fed.*

*You that yearn for days of fullness,*

*all around us is our food.*

*Taste and see the grace eternal.*

*Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, never strangers;*

*seeker, be a welcome guest.*

*Come from restlessness and roaming.*

*Here, in joy, we keep the feast.*

*We that once were lost and scattered*

*in communion’s love have stood.*

*Taste and see the grace eternal.*

*Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, sing together;*

*Jesus Christ is living bread.*

*Come from loneliness and longing.*

*Here, in peace, we have been led.*

*Blest are those who from this table*

*live their lives in gratitude.*

*Taste and see the grace eternal.*

*Taste and see that God is good.*

**Communion Liturgy**

**Because of you, “Fulfiller-of-promises”, we come to know  
the way to Bethlehem,  
Where justice is born to a shunned couple,  
where the riches of your love are born first into poverty.**

**Because of you, “Great Redeemer”,  
grace sprouts hope in the winter of our despair,  
goodness overcomes evil in the streets of our cities,**

**love transforms hate in the hardest of hearts.  
   
Because of you, “Prince of Peace”,  
we are taught to pray even in the shadows of our worries,  
and to trust that your struggle for peace and equity is preferable to easy prejudices sold on every corner.**

**Because of you, “God of Holy Truth”,  
we will be led in this Advent season  
to the Manger of hope and redemption.**

**Even though we cannot be together in one place…**

**God is with us  
Christ is present here  
The Spirit moves within us**  
**Let us give thanks to God**

**Blessings be to you, Creator God,  
Who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.  
Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still stands with us.**  
**You have called people to embrace your hope and share your love. But even when they have closed their ears to the song you did not stop singing.**

**You sent the prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would become The Way of true life.**

**And then you came to a young woman named Mary and told the story in a new way.**

**You promised she would bear a blessed child who would be called Jesus. The one who would not waver from the path of peace and love even though he was a target of violence and hatred.**

**We remember how God’s Word was born into the world through the love of trusting peasants.**   
**We remember how he broke the chains of fear and death and chose life again and again.**

**We cherish the holy-parables he gave that help us discover our humanity and God’s grace.**

**We remember how he courageously faced the threat of execution but in spite of this, he trod a path that led to the freeing-truth of God.**

**We mourn his crucifixion and receive his resurrection.**

**We recite the defiant faith in God’s Risen Word that burns in our hearts:**

**Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**

**God send your spirit upon us and these gifts.**

**Breaking the Bread and Raising the Cup**

**Sharing of the Elements**

**Prayer after Communion**

**The Lord’s Prayer (paraphrased by Edward Gabriele)**

**Tender God, who lives in heaven and earth, in human passion and reason, you are the Holy One in our midst. Your justice is our peace; your peace is our hope; your presence our delight! Make our hands, your hands; our hearts, your heart; our lives, your life! Give us this day and always the bread of freedom to share, a cup of hope to pour upon the earth. Forgive us our hatreds and walls. Teach us to forgive the walls of others too. Do not permit us tests beyond our strength. And deliver us from Evil’s death grip. For everything above us and under us, everything within us and without us, must bend the knee to the Glory of your Freedom, the everlasting Victory of Justice and Peace! AMEN; So Be It.**

**Hymn 5 All Earth Is Waiting**

***All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,***

***and open furrows await the seed of God.***

***All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;***

***it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.***

***Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,***

***“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.”***

***One whose name is “God with us,” our Saviour shall be,***

***through whom hope will blossom once more***

***within our hearts.***

***Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,***

***open new highways, new highways for our God,***

***who is now coming closer, so come all and see,***

***and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.***

***In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.***

***Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,***

***for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;***

***again, on arriving, Christ bring us liberty.***

Hymn 20 God of Still Waiting from More Voices

***God of still waiting, God of deep longing,***

***God of the heart’s true rest:***

***Hold us in fathomless peace,***

***Guard us with unwaning love.***

***Spirit of promise, Spirit of purpose,***

***Spirit of ceaseless prayer:***

***Bathe us life full and free,***

***Kindle our wonder and hope.***

***Word who comes to us, Word who lives with us,***

***Word who disturbs and heals:***

***Silence our chattering fears,***

***Waken our unconscious faith.***

***Word true and faithful, hope-bringing Spirit,***

***God of enfolding love:***

***Come in your fullness and grace;***

***Work through our lives for your praise.***

**Epistle 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 (call of faith)**

**Mark 13: 24- 37 (wakefulness)**

**“*In December”* Ray Piercy and Patti Watson**

**Sermon *“Eddy Line”* Rev. Brian Goodings**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Invitation and Acknowledgement of Offerings Prayer of Dedication**

**Hymn #25 Vs: 1,2,4**

***Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending***

***Lo, he comes with clouds descending,***

***See the Lamb for sinners slain!***

***Thousand, thousand saints attending***

***Join to sing the glad refrain:***

***Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!***

***God appears on earth to reign.***

***Every eye shall then behold you,***

***Robed in awesome majesty;***

***All who jeered, and mocked, and sold you,***

***Pierced, and nailed you to the tree,***

***Deeply grieving, deeply grieving’ deeply grieving,***

***Shall the true Messiah see.***

***Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,***

***High on your eternal throne;***

***Crowns and empires fall before you,***

***Claim the kingdom for your own:***

***O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!***

***Everlasting Christ, come down.***

**Benediction Hymn 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Verse 1**

***O come, O Come, Emmanuel,***

***And ransom captive Israel***

***That mourns in lowly exile here***

***Until the Son of God appear.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel***

***shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**Postlude**