



Thornbury, Ontario
Grace United Church
Bold. Nurturing. Liberal. Christian.

Find this service online:

<https://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/livestreams/43>

November 29, 2020 ~ 10:30 AM ~ 1st Sunday of Advent

Leading us today in Worship

Minister: Rev. Thérèse Samuel

Music Director: Dr. Christopher Burton

Lay Leader: Phyllis Fleming

Scripture Reader: Norine Baron

Advent Candle Lighters: Carol and Doug Clarke.

~ Leader: regular font ~ **All: bold font** ~ *Sung words: bold italics*

We Join One Another to Worship God

PRELUDE Come Thou, Redeemer of the Earth arr. by C. Burton

ADVENT 1 CANDLE LIGHTING

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1)

In the sun, in the stars, in the light of the moon, we see the
glory of our God. Soon, the one we call the Light of the

World will be born again in our hearts, minds and spirits.

The first candle is lit.

Let us pray:

Wondrous, Holy God,

today we begin our time of advent waiting.

Shine the light of your love upon us, we pray,

and fill us with hope as we make our way toward
the stable, the cradle, and the birth

that changed everything...

the birth of Jesus. Amen.

And we sing...

MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

Refrain

***Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.***

4.

***Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.***

Refrain

***Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.***

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Called by the God who speaks to us through earth and sky, Come, let us worship:

OPENING PRAYER and Prayer for Illumination

O God, come to us in our need.

**Like a shepherd,
you care for us.**

**Like a potter,
you shape our lives.**

Faithful God, we are waiting for you.

Come down to us.

**Come down to us as fire,
and burn away the bonds
that hold us back.**

Light our spirits with your eternal love.

**Shape us with your hands,
that we may be vessels
fit to receive your presence.**

**We are waiting, Holy One
and place our trust in your love. Amen.**

And as we prepare to listen for God's word to us in scripture, we continue praying:

**We are waiting, O God.
We are waiting to hear your word.
We are waiting to sense your presence.
Open our hearts,
that we may be renewed by your grace
and transformed by your love. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE *First Reading*

**Our Old Testament reading is from Isaiah chapter 64: verses 1-9
(New Revised Standard Version)**

REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Save us, O God.
Save us from indifference and impatience.
Save us from the distractions of life.
Enter our lives and restore the goodness you have planted
within.
By your saving love,
draw us into lives of healing and hope.
Heal our brokenness.
Shape our lives with your loving hands,
that we might reflect your love.
Come down, O God, and restore us this day. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**God is the potter who shapes our lives.
God is the parent who loves us.
We are the people of God—forgiven, loved and freed.**

HYMN VU 2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**1.
*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.***

**2.
*Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.***

3.

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

4.

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

God Speaks, We Listen

SCRIPTURE Second Reading

Our Epistle reading is from First Corinthians chapter 1: verses 3-9

New Revised Standard Version.

SERMON "The Spiritual Gifts You Need"

HYMN VU 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Verses 2-7

2.

*O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

3.

*O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

4.

*O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

5.

*O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6.

*O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

7.

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease, and be for us the Prince of Peace.*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

We Join God in the World

PROFESSION OF FAITH A New Creed

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.

SCRIPTURE *Third Reading*

Our Gospel reading is from Mark chapter 13: verses 33-37

I am reading from the
New Revised Standard Version.

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

OFFERING *We honour all the ways we give as we dedicate our offering.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF

Generous and loving God,

you give us everything we need.

Surrounded and supported by your love,

there is nothing we lack.

As we bring our offerings to you,

may they support your work of peace and justice,

and bring hope to the world.

As we bring our very selves to you,

mold and shape us as you will,

then send us forth to serve. Amen.

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

A single stone placed in the offering plate honours all our gifts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN VU 25 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

(due to technical problems, the last verse will be on the organ, with voices in the distance)

1.

***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.

2.

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.

3.

*Now redemption, long expected
see in solemn pomp appear;
all the saints, by us rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!*

4.

*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.*

INTERLUDE Gigue from English Suite #4 J.S. Bach

Our Worship concludes with

COMMUNION on Zoom

The Zoom Link was sent in the eblast.

COFFEE HOUR Join us for community time after Communion on Zoom

LITURGY SOURCES: The following are used with permission:

- Affirmation of Faith: **"A New Creed,"**

The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt. 1998

- Call to Worship, Reflections, Sermon by **Thérèse Samuel**, 2020

- Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, Invitation to the Offering, Prayer of Dedication By **Mary Petrina Boyd**, from **The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020**, © Abingdon Press.

- Advent Candle Lighting "The Elements", written by **Susan Ivany**; from **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2020-2021 p67-68

HYMNS and SUNG VERSES

- **"Called by Earth and Sky."**

Words and music: Pat Mayberry, 2005.

Arr. Margaret Stubington, 2005

Words and music copyright 2005 Pat Mayberry Used by permission.

Arrangement copyright 2005 by Margaret Stubington..

- **"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus."**

Words: Charles Wesley 1744

Music Psalmodia Sacra 1715

Public Domain.

- **"O Come, O Come Emmanuel."**

Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca. 9th century;

trans. John Mason Neale 1851, et al

Music: 13th century plainsong melody, arr. Healey Willan

Words copyright The Church Pension fund. Used by permission.

Arrangement copyright Concordia Publishing House

Used by permission, One License #608577

- **"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending."**

Words: John Cennick 1750, rev. Charles Wesley 1758 and Martin Madan 1769, alt.

Music: English melody 18th century; arr. Thomas Olivers 1765

Public Domain

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Scripture Passage from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Prelude: Come Thou, Redeemer of the Earth arr. by C. Burton

Interlude: Gigue from English Suite #4 J.S. Bach

Public Domain