



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

December 13, 2020 ~ 10:30 AM ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

Service link: <http://www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live>

Leading us today in Worship

Minister: Rev. Thérèse Samuel

Music Director: Dr. Christopher Burton

Lay Leader: Phyllis Fleming

Scripture Reader: Sandy and Olivia

Candle Lighting Reader and Vocals: Marg Tirpkoff

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

ROOTS AND WINGS Due to a technical glitch, the following dedication was not received until after the Roots and Wings Service. So our prelude is a Roots and Wings dedication this morning.

PRELUDE "Menuet" from Le Tombeau de Couperin, M. Ravel
Today's prelude is the fifth of six movements from this solo piano suite based on the tradition of a Baroque suite. The word tombeau is a musical term popular in the 17th century meaning "a piece written as a memorial". Ravel wrote this suite for piano in memory of his mother and 5 friends that died in WWI. This movement is a reflective Minuet, an ideal piece to start this service. Today it is played by Christopher Burton in Memory of Annie Oliver, Remembered by Jim Oliver.

ADVENT 3 CANDLE LIGHTING

Let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy (Those words were from Psalm 96).

By the grace of God, and the wonder of the natural world, the earth provides. As Mary and Joseph made their way to Bethlehem for the census, they had food to sustain them—bread made from grain grown in good soil. There was hay for the stable and grass for the animals to eat while the shepherds watched over them. The goodness of God's creation celebrates with us on our Advent journey.

The first three candles are lit.

Let us pray:

Creator God, we see your grace and goodness in the world around us. In trees and fields and the beauty of creation, we find deep joy. Bless us on our Advent way as we await 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.***

3.

***Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creations's faithful song.***

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

**Spirit of God, we give you thanks for drawing near,
for touching the world in the saviour's birth.**

**Help us draw near to you,
as we prepare our hearts and our world
for the justice and peace you bring.**

**Guide our preparations for Christmas,
as we share the good news with those who suffer,
and as we offer our friendship
to those who are alone.**

**Move within our hearts,
 as we make a way for your coming,
 by forgiving others as we have been forgiven.
 Come, Spirit of God; be born in us anew,
 that we may live in your mercy and your grace. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As we invite the Spirit to illumine the words of scripture, we sing our prayer inviting Christ's presence of wisdom:

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

SERMON "Being Bold Like Isaiah"

CAROL VU 79 Arise, Your Light Is Come

- 1. Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
 show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.***
- 2. Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
 proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.***
- 3. Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
 bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.***
- 4. Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
 Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.***

SECOND READING (SUNG) Luke 1:26-38

We remember that you called upon Mary, a young girl, waiting to get her start in life, with an unexpected messenger and an unimaginable offer. With poise she received the messenger. With grace she received the message. We sing the scripture passage:

VU 14 To a Maid, Whose Name Was Mary

- 1. To a Maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.
 "Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news,
 good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.***

2. "For you are highly favoured by God the Lord of all, who even now is with you, You are on earth most blest, you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!"

3. But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word. What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear, to hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.

4. " Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child. His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high. And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."

5. "How shall this be" said Mary, "that I should be with child?" The angel answered quickly, "The power of the Most High will come upon you shortly, your child shall be God's child."

6. As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words. "Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God. "So be it, I am ready according to your word."

Not only did Mary say 'yes' to God. Mary also sang a song of gratitude to God, and praise for God's acts of healing and justice.

THIRD READING: Luke 1:46B-55 Song of Mary

PRAYER OF YEARNING

Saviour God, shine upon us with your grace.

**We long to align ourselves with the
proud and the mighty.**

**Guide us to walk with those
who are poor and weak.**

**When we yearn for riches and glory,
guide our hearts back to your thirst
for justice and righteousness.**

Remember us with mercy.

**We desire to live as the household of faith
you would have us be.**

**Help us live according to your gospel
and trust that all things are possible
in your love.**

In Christ's saving grace, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rejoice! God has looked with favour upon the powerless
and the lowly.

Christ has come to redeem us from our sin.

The Spirit has strengthened us
with the power of grace and love.

In the mercy of the triune God,
we are forgiven.

CAROL VU 17 O Ancient Love

1. O ancient love, processing through the ages;

O hidden love, revealed in human form;

O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:

*Refrain O living Love, within our hearts be born,
 O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

2. O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;

O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;

O hungry love, that lay within a manger:

*Refrain O living Love, within our hearts be born,
 O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

3. O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;

O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;

O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow:

*Refrain O living Love, within our hearts be born,
 O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

4. O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;

O boundless love, that rises with the morn;

O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness:

*Refrain O living Love, within our hearts be born,
 O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

FOURTH READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

In this Advent season,

as the nights grow longer, let us wait—

expectantly, longingly, anxiously, and thoughtfully—

knowing that it was in the darkness of Mary's womb
that the Christ child was conceived, and made ready.

We remember nations and peoples at war,
countries torn apart by strife and conflict,
cities and villages affected by natural disaster;
let us pray for the needs of the whole world

We remember God's good earth,
waiting for deliverance from neglect or abuse,
destruction or misuse;
let us pray for all creation

We remember the church around the world,
proclaiming Good News of liberty, freedom, and
forgiveness;

let us pray for the church in this community

And let us remember, in Jesus' name,

all who are poor or hungry . . .

all who are cold or lonely . . .

all who are sick and all who mourn . . .

and let us remember Jesus' call to be loving servants of
all.

We gather these and all our prayers,
joining with all who have dared to
give birth to God's promises,
with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we are one for evermore.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken, traditional words, VU 921)*

As a child turns to a loving caregiver who watches over
them, we turn in prayer to you, O God, who are our
heavenly parent, our mother,

Our Father, who art in Heaven...

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*Think of one person with whom you would like to share the peace
of Christ. Share it now or later, in whatever way you can.*

You can also share the peace by typing in the chat box.

MUSIC for PASSING the PEACE Moment Musical #6 F. Schubert

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

MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Remembering the great things God has done for us,
we are now invited to return these symbols
of our gratitude to God.

Even when we offer small things,
when they are given
with the love of Christ in our hearts,
God can transform our gifts
into mighty miracles.

Let us fill the hungry with our gifts.
Let us lift up the lowly with our compassion.
Let us remember a world in need.
With mercy and love,
let us offer ourselves and our gifts.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Just as our souls magnify the Lord,
May our offerings glorify God.
Surely we are blessed.**

**We rejoice in the mercy that you have shown us
from generation to generation.**

**we remember the powerful promise you bring:
hope to the hopeless and strength to the weak.**

With joy, we pray in gratitude and praise. Amen.

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

Donate online: www.graceunitedthornbury.ca, select "Give"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Go Out to Share God's Love!

FIFTH READING Romans 16:25-27

Join us next week to hear the story, the good news of Christ's birth with a special all-ages pageant on Sunday, and to celebrate in song the birth of Christ, on Xmas Eve and Xmas. The story of which we sing:

CAROL VU 38 Angels We Have Heard on High

1.

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.*

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2.

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?*

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

3.

*Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.*

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

4.

*See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.*

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

SENDING Go from this time of worship

with the angel song in your ears,
and the Christ's song in your hearts.

Go from this time knowing that every song you
need is within you and around you.

Go into the world to bring the Song
that the world longs to sing.

Go, and may the Everlasting Song go with you,
now and always.

SUNG GLORIA From *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

POSTLUDE Mazurka in A Minor F. Chopin

COFFEE HOUR Join us via Zoom for community time.
The Zoom Link was sent in the eblast.

BONUS CAROL VU 44 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1.
*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold,
"Peace on the earth good will to all
from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*
2.
*Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er it Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*
3.
*Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife, to hear the angels sing.*
4.
*For, lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendours fling;
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

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Passing the Peace: Moment Musical #6 F. Schubert

Postlude: Mazurka in A Minor F. Chopin

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