

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Psalm 80 (Advent) *(Emma Lou Diemer)*

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Peter Drost

INTROIT I Am Walking a Path of Hope
(Janet Bauman Tissandier)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, as we begin the journey
to Bethlehem once more.

**Step by step, by step,
let us journey through the gift
of these Advent days,**
until like Mary and Joseph, of necessity
and weariness,

we find our place at the manger.

Let us make the journey in hope,
in confidence, and in trust,
for God is with us.

Come, let us worship God!
(Bob Root)

***HYMN** People, Look East *pg 7*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Helen Roberts, Mary Smith, Paula Hanna

On this first Sunday of Advent,
we come with hope as a community of faith.
We wait, we watch, we wonder.

We come in hope of God's promise
to being light to this world.
**We wait in hope for the coming of Jesus,
the Christ Child.**

As we light the first candle in our wreath, we take a
moment to breathe in the Spirit of hope.
(Candle of Hope is lit.)

Let us pray...
**God of hope, on this first Sunday of Advent, fill us with
Hope for the world and for the church, knowing that
Jesus, the Christ child, brings the light of hope. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE Hope Is a Star VU 7

**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.**

THEME CONVERSATION

SONG Prepare the Way of the Lord VU 10
Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make a straight path for him, make a straight path;
prepare the way of the Lord.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 33:14-16 *(p.738 Pew Bible OT)*
(A righteous branch from David's line.) Charles Truax

ANTHEM How Far Is It to Bethlehem? *(arr. Stan Pethel)*

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36 *(p.85-86 Pew Bible NT)*
(Signs in the heavens and on earth; parable of the fig tree.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON The Stars Are Out

***HYMN** All Earth Is Waiting *pg 7-8*

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY The Hope of Christmas *(Matthew West)*
David Pilkey & Steve Falk

DEDICATION In the Bleak Midwinter *(Tune: VU 55)*

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
give my heart.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing

PRAYER PRELUDE We Call to You O God *(Mayberry/Kai)*
**We call to You, O God, in faith and with open heart,
hear our prayer. We call to You, O God, in faith
and with open heart, hear, hear our prayer.
Hear, hear our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

VU p. 910

* **HYMN** Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending
Pg 8

* **COMMISSIONING**

God, who leads by a star,
show us the way to Bethlehem.

**Lead us to that place
where love is to be born into our lives.**

Give us signs along the road
as we make our journey,
that we may follow your way.

* **SUNG BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary Star
Hope shines as the solitary star. MV 220
Faith is the inner light.
**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.**

POSTLUDE True Colours (Cyndi Lauper)

David Pilkey & Steve Falk



Gifts with Vision Transforms Lives
A meaningful gift

“I don’t want anything for Christmas. I really don’t need anything this year.”

This is something many of us have heard, and maybe something we’ve found ourselves saying. And while it may be true, despite not wanting or needing anything, gifts are going to happen anyway. Instead of searching “gifts for someone who is hard to buy for,” why not give **Gifts with Vision?**

Gifts with Vision is a way to give gifts from the comfort of home, with no packaging or wrapping needed. Instead of gadgets and fleeting trends, Gifts with Vision is full of gifts that will help transform people’s lives throughout Canada and across the world. When placing your order, you’ll be able to add an e-card, including a delivery date, for each gift.

Every Gift with Vision provides support for a specific Mission and Service partner offering a unique project.

Without Mission and Service, Gifts with Vision projects would not be possible. Thank you for supporting both.

When Christmas rolls around, remember that a meaningful gift is a simple click away. If madly dashing around the mall on Christmas Eve is your gift-buying style, kick back and relax.

Gifts with Vision has you covered!

This year AUC Outreach committee is fund raising for Food for the North and Displaced Persons. We hope you will support this.

Gifts with a Vision can be found @ giftswithvision.ca



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.



**AURORA UNITED
CHURCH**



An Affirming Congregation

Church Office 905-727-1935
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



ADVENT 1 (Hope)
December 1, 2024
11:00 am

*As the days grow shorter and the darkness grows,
we light Advent candles each week to remind us that
we do not face the darkness alone but that, indeed,
the light of the world has come, shining on in the
darkness to illumine our lives and lead us forward—
not in fear, but in courage—even joy.*

People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled; even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

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 brings us liberty.

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.

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!

Yea! Amen! Let all adore you, high on your eternal throne; crowns and empires all
before you, claim the kingdom for your own: O come quickly! O come quickly! O
come quickly! Everlasting Christ, come down.

