

November 30th, 2025 – 10:30 am
First Sunday of Advent
Hope



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"We gather in longing and in light, trusting that hope still rises."

Prelude: *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring, BWV 147*, by J. S. Bach (String Quartet: Violin 1: Joelle Crigger, Violin 2: Luke Lee, Viola: Kyung Rok Moon, Cello: Emma Schmiedecke)

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Bob McElhinney

As we assemble in this holy place, we recognize that for thousands of years this territory has been a sacred gathering place for many peoples of Turtle Island. We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of several Indigenous Nations and wish to pay special recognition to the Mississaugas of the Credit. The original nations continue to cry out for justice.

As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

Advent Wreath Lighting: Candle of Hope

On this first Sunday of Advent,
we enter a sacred season of watching, waiting, and wondering.
Advent is the church's invitation to slow down,
to breathe deeply, and to look toward God's promised future with hope.

It is the beginning of a journey toward the Christ who comes,
comes to renew creation,
comes to heal what is broken,
comes to shine light in every shadowed place.

Today we listen again to the prophet Isaiah,
who calls to us from the past to imagine God's future,
a future where peace is real,
where justice is lived,
and where nations no longer train for war.
"As God shall judge between the nations and arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more." (*Isaiah 2:4*).

**Today, we choose to live in hope,
believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.**

And so, we light this first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope,
a sign that God's light is already breaking into our world.
As we light this candle, we promise to follow that light,
to walk in God's ways,
and to let our hope become action in the days to come. (*Light the candle.*)

**Come, Emmanuel,
make us people of prophetic hope. Amen.**

Words of Welcome

Beloved community, welcome to this first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of our journey toward Christmas, toward the Light that no despair can overcome. Whether you are here in the sanctuary or joining from home, you are part of this circle of hope, justice, and faith. Together, we prepare our hearts to receive the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, the One who comes to renew, restore, and redeem all creation. Welcome home. Welcome to worship.

Life and Works of the Community

Hymn: VU 7 *Hope Is a Star* (vs. 1)

- 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.

Opening Prayer

Silent Confession

Advent Hope & Passing of the Peace:

Isaiah promises a day when swords become plowshares. (*Isaiah 2:4*).

The psalm prays, "Peace be within your walls." (*Psalms 122:7*).

Paul urges us to wake, for the night is far gone. (*Romans 13:11*).

Jesus calls us to stay awake with hope. (*Matthew 24:42*).

This is Advent's truth: God's light is near, and hope is already rising.

As we walk in God's light and wait in hope,

let us share Christ's peace. *The peace of Christ be with you.*

The peace of Christ be also with you. (*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbour*)

Anthem: *See Amid the Winter's Snow* arr. by Dan Forrest (String Quartet)

WE GROW IN FAITH

"We grow in grace as the prophets remind us: the dawn is near."

Introduction to the Scripture:

The scriptures draw us into the heart of Advent hope. Isaiah 2:1–5 gives us a vision of God's future: a world where weapons become tools for planting, where nations choose peace, and where people everywhere walk in the light of God. It is a promise spoken into fear and uncertainty, inviting us to imagine what God can still make possible. Psalm 122 answers that vision with a prayer, a prayer for the peace of Jerusalem, for safety, for belonging, and for joy in community. This psalm reminds us that hope is not only a dream; it is something we pray for, practice, and embody. As we hear these readings, may our hearts open to God's promise and our lives reflect God's peace.

Scriptures: Isaiah 2:1–5 (Inclusive Bible)
Psalm 122 (VU 845 with Response)

Bob McElhinney

R: With joy we go to God's own house and enter with a song.

I was glad when they said to me:

Let us go to the house of God.

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city bound firmly together.

There the tribes go up, the tribes of God,
to give thanks to the name of God, as was decreed for Israel.

**There the thrones of justice stand,
the thrones of David's house. R**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

May those who love you prosper!

**May there be peace within your walls,
prosperity within your palaces!**

For the sake of my kin and friends I say: Peace be with you!

**For the sake of the house of our God,
I will seek your good. R**

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *"The Prophet Isaiah – Prophetic Hope"*

Silent Reflection

Offering and Thanksgiving

In this season of waiting, we give not from abundance but from hope,
hope that generosity can heal, mend, and make peace in our world.

**We give as a sign of hope,
believing God's promise of renewal for all creation.**

(The offering is collected in the sanctuary. For those online, you are welcome to donate to the work of TSP with the QR code below.)



Offertory Hymn: TLUS 57 *We Wait For God*

- 1 We wait for God, creation longs
 to see a new day dawn.
And though the night is dark and deep,
 we dare to sing our song.
 We wait for God; creation longs,
 we dare to sing our song.
- 2 We watch for God, the earth cries out,
 “will violence ever cease?”
The one who saw the signs is seen
 in ways that make for peace
 We watch for God; the earth cries out
 for ways that make for peace.
- 3 We work for God, the nations need
 each one to do their part.
The Spirit works through everyone,
 each hand and head and heart.
 We work for God; the nations need
 each hand and head and heart.
- 4 We worship God, the people pray
 that love will cast out fear.
We wait and watch to work and see
 the Day of God draw near.
 We worship God; the people pray,
 the Day of God draws near.

Offering Prayer

God of dawn and promise,
receive these gifts and our hearts with them.
May they shine as signs of your coming hope.
Bless our giving that it may bring light to weary places,
and awaken joy in every corner of creation.
Through Christ, our Hope. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Barbara Lloyd

Loving God, hear our prayer.
And in your love, answer.

Sung Response: MV 11 *Come, Come Emmanuel*

Come, come Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel.

Encircling Prayers... *We hold in our prayers:*

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

The Amini-Najafizada Family
Bradley Clements and Emma Kelly
Betty Butterworth
Vera and Greg Callaghan

Shining Waters Regional Council

Dalston-Crown Hill United Church, Barrie
Heritage United Church, Markham
Eglinton St. George's United Church, Toronto

The United Church of Canada

The Staff of the Shared Services and Philanthropy of the GC

Ecumenical Community & Prayer

The pastors and congregations of Christ Disciples Church, India
The churches in Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore

*O God of Life,
you have placed us on this earth to usher in Your Kingdom of love and compassion.
Forgive us when our social witness has failed to build bridges of peace and understanding among
all peoples.
Let there be growing spaces of understanding, tolerance and harmony among the different ethnic
and religious communities.
Grant that Your church in Malaysia will deepen its influence to work for peace, to be prophetic in
calling for justice and caring in sustaining a sharing fellowship with all people.
So rule our hearts and prosper our endeavours of good,
to the honor of Your Holy name, Jesus Christ our Saviour, we pray.
Amen.*

WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD

"We go with hearts lit by hope, walking in the light of God."

Closing Hymn: VU 5 *All Earth Is Waiting*

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

Benediction

Postlude: *Overture* from the Messiah, HWV 56, by G. F. Handel



See this week's e-newsletter for the full announcements. You can sign up to receive the announcements by scanning the QR code above, or by emailing Sarah.

Upcoming Dates

December 2: Deep Listening Session 4 - 2-4PM

December 7: Farewell Emma & Bradley - 4PM

December 10: New Member Session - Online - 7PM

December 14: Na-Me-Res Stocking Collection (During Service)

December 21: Carols by Candlelight - 7PM

December 24: Christmas Eve Service - 7PM

Trinity-St. Paul's Season of Commitment

As we enter into our annual Season of Commitment, we invite you to consider how you might share your gifts in the year ahead — gifts of time, talents, or resources. Whether you participate in worship, choir, social justice initiatives, hospitality events, governance or give financially to sustain our ministry, your participation strengthens our presence and witness in the neighbourhood. Please take time to pray and reflect on how you feel called to participate this year — every offering of love makes a difference.

Connecting with Hewitt in December

Hewitt will be in the building at Trinity-St. Paul's for three Sundays each month to lead worship and share in the life of our congregation. During those weeks, he will also be in the church office Monday through Wednesday. On Thursdays, Hewitt will be working from home and is available for online meetings or conversations. Fridays are his Sabbath day off. One week of each month will be Hewitt's reading and research week and he will be available for pastoral emergencies only. **In December and January, Hewitt will be away December 28 to January 10 (2026).** If you would like to connect with Hewitt for pastoral care, conversation, or to discuss church life, you are welcome to reach out during his office hours, schedule an online meeting, or meet with him following Sunday worship. His email is hholmes@trinitystpauls.ca and 416 9228435 ext. 24

Christmas In Memoriam Plants

In memorial flowers/plants will be purchased to bring some extra colour and joy to our sanctuary at this time of year. Flowers will be distributed by the Pastoral Care committee to those in particular need of our love and support following the service on Sunday Dec.14. Betty will be taking orders this Sunday and next Sunday in the narthex if you wish to purchase a plant in memory of a loved one. Cost is \$10. per plant and dedications will be printed in the bulletin for Dec. 14. OR email your request to Betty: bettystoneis@gmail.com E-transfers of funds to this email are preferred.

Deep Listening Session – December 2, 2-4PM

As Trinity-St. Paul's begins a new chapter of ministry, you are warmly invited to join in a series of Deep Listening Sessions. These gatherings provide an opportunity to pause, share, and hear one another's stories as we reflect together on life, community, and the church. All are welcome, members, adherents, newcomers, and friends of TSP. In-person at Trinity-St. Paul's (Minister's Office). **Please confirm your attendance with the church office by emailing** church-admin@trinitystpauls.ca

New Members Sessions - December 10, 7PM and January 18, 11:45AM

If you have been worshipping with us in person or online and are sensing a desire to make Trinity-St. Paul's your spiritual home; we warmly invite you to join one of our upcoming New Member Sessions with our minister, Hewitt. We will meet online on **Wednesday, December 10, from 7:00–8:30 pm** and in person on **Sunday, January 18, from 11:45–1:15 pm**. You are welcome to attend either session, whichever you prefer. A follow-up time will also be arranged for you to meet with church leadership as part of our shared discernment. We look forward to welcoming you, hearing your story, and walking together in faith, justice, and community.

Farewell for Emma & Bradley – December 7, 4PM

We are gathering for an hour Zoom meeting with Emma Kelly and Bradley Clemens to share their news since their move to Victoria BC and to give a chance to members of our congregation to say goodbye, particularly if you did not have a chance to see them before they left Toronto last August. If you plan to attend, we invite you to prepare a question or some words of appreciation for Emma and Bradley. Please **register in advance for this meeting**. You can do this by emailing the Church Office. The link will be sent to you following registration.

Carols for Advent - beginning December 7, 10:15AM

To celebrate the Advent season, beginning on Sunday, December 7, we will sing carols in the Sanctuary before service at 10:15am. All are invited to join us then!

Na-Me-Res Stocking Collection - December 14

Once again we are asking you to purchase Christmas stocking gifts for [Na-Me-Res](#). This Indigenous non-profit agency provides housing and culturally appropriate mental health support for Indigenous men. Please choose from the following list: **backpacks, socks, gloves, underwear, sleepwear, sweat tops and pants, sweaters, towels, face cloths, rain gear, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, Tim Horton's gift cards, candy**. We plan to bring the unwrapped gifts up to the communion table during the offertory on Sunday December 14th. If you have any questions or need help purchasing an item, please contact Marjie Calla, marjie.calla@gmail.com

Carols by Candlelight – December 21, 7PM

Our beloved Carols by Candlelight service is on the horizon! Join us for an evening of Christmas carols, music, and joy of the season. Candles provided! This is a free event, open to all, and no tickets are required. An offering will be collected to support the Trinity-St. Paul's music ministry.



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*Trinity–St. Paul's is an inclusive and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada. We seek to be a centre for faith, justice and the arts: **a centre for faith**, where the Gospel is lived and shared; **a centre for justice**, where voices are raised for peace and equity; **a centre for the arts**, where beauty, imagination, and creativity reveal God's presence.*

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