

# First United Church

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1st Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

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Worship Leaders ..... Cheryl Perry, Donald Schmidt  
Music ..... Alleluia Singers, Frances Chiasson, Jessica Crawford, Rhonda Draper  
Communion Servers..... David Bertetic, Nathanael Bertetic, Margaret Brooks,  
..... Maggie Craig, Joan Dalglish, Susanne Donkin, Myrna McRae, Carl Steph  
Greeters ..... Joyce Arndt, Shaun Ferguson, Myrna McRae  
Ushers..... Linda Gilmour, Karen Hawkey, Bobbie Tough  
Sound System..... Luke Campbell  
Projectionist ..... Benita Worley  
Coffee Hour ..... Lois Lashmar, Roy Lashmar  
Minute Person ..... Shirley Piedt

**Welcome Table in the hall after worship** - Information about activities and services we offer at First United.

**Prayer Cycle** - This Sunday we join with other churches to pray for all those who offer ministry with children and families.

**Offering Counters Today** – Linda Gilmour, Myrna MacKenzie, Luba Stojko.

**Peace & Justice Table in the hall after worship** - Environmental issues, urgent actions & Fair-Trade items.

**Healing Ministry** - Please contact Judy at 250-862-0712 for appointment.

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Here we gather to seek, know and express God's love in an open community which embraces diversity. Through the use of language, imagery, and metaphors that are inclusive of gender, sexual orientation, race and ability, we affirm that all of creation bears the image of God. While we are not always successful, this remains an important goal.

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# Gathering

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell, Welcome, Announcements

The Peace

Introit "Wait for the Lord" (*Voices United 22*)

**Wait for the Lord, God's day is near.**

**Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart! (repeat)**

Call to Worship

**One:** (*clap sharply*) Be alert! Be prepared. Wait with eagerness!

**All: A new day is coming!**

**One:** O God, we lift our hearts to you. (*lift hands up high*)

**All: We lift our hearts to you!** (*lift hands up high*)

**One:** Lead us in your way, O God. (*move arms outward*)

**All: We are your people, and we follow you.**

(*move arms outward*)

**One:** Come, let's worship God.

Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*Voices United 1, vs. 1, 3, 5, 7*)

Advent Prayer and Candle lighting (Kranabetter/Fabbi family)

Prayer (**unison**)

**Thank you, God, for the light of hope. As we prepare for  
Christ's coming, help us to share our hope with others.**

Sung response "Come, Lord Jesus"

(*Carey Landry, The Rainbow Songbook*)

**Our hearts are open, our hearts are open,**

**Our hearts are open: come and be born in our hearts.**

## Word

Word for all Ages

Hymn "All Earth Is Waiting" (*Voices United 5*)

*Children leave for Sunday school*

Anthem "Come, Come Emmanuel" - Joel Raney

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Reflection

Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (*Voices United 2*)

## Thanksgiving

The invitation to the offering

A Time of Musical Reflection and Thanksgiving

"There is not a friend like the lowly Jesus" -George Crawford Hugg

Offering Presentation "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*(Voices United 64, vs. 3)*

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

Prayer of Dedication

**Creator God, how can we thank you enough for all the joy we  
feel? We can offer you these gifts and trust you to take them  
and use them to bring your realm to reality in our world.**

**Amen.**

Communion

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts in prayer.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Loving God, Source of all...

Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen and with all the faithful of every time and place, we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving:

**Holy, holy, holy God, power of life and love!**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory!**

**Hosanna through the ages!**

**Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth!**

...Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,  
“This is the new covenant; remember me.”

**We proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.**

## Sending Forth

Hymn “Hope Is a Star” (*Voices United 7*)

Blessing

Commissioning “A Journey Just Begun” (*Strathdee vs. 1*)

**Come and join us on a journey just begun**

**As we celebrate the life of God’s own son.**

**The stories of his life become our stories too,**

**In choices that we make, in everything we do.**

**Come join us on a journey just begun.**

**Preparing the way, preparing the way,**

**We’re preparing the way of our God.**

Postlude “L’Angelique”-F. Couperin

**Next Week’s Lectionary Readings:**

*Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11*

*Luke 3:1-6*

## Ministry Team

Donald Schmidt (*Minister for Worship & Leadership Development*)

Cheryl Perry (*Minister for Families & Social Justice*)

Frances Chiasson (*Minister of Music*)

Jessica Crawford (*Accompanist*)

Karen Kranabetter (*Liturgical Artist*)

Rachel Anweiler (*Youth Co-ordinator*)

Pat Totton (*Parish Nurse*)

Rev. Beverley Milton (*Minister Emeritus*)

Tanya Pritchard (*Office Administrator*)

Vivian Dunne (*Assistant Administrator*)

Keith Crawley (*Bookkeeper*)

Fikrije & Mahmut Kacuri (*Custodians*)

Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Monday – Thursday, Fridays 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

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**Twinkle Tour** A driving tour of Christmas light displays is being offered to shut-ins and those that don't drive at night, by the Pastoral Care Core Ministry on Sunday December 9. After a one-hour drive beginning at 4:30pm we will meet in Room 14 for cookies and cider. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table for individuals willing to drive and for those that would like to participate as "riders".

**THANK YOU!** Thank you to everyone who has made a commitment for 2019. The total to date is **\$226,530 from 123 contributors**. If you haven't made a commitment and wish to, it would be gratefully received. Please leave it at the office or in the offering plate on any Sunday this year.

**Envelope steward** The 2019 offering envelopes have been prepared. Please pick yours up at the back of the sanctuary or in the hall on Sundays; also available in the office mid-week.

**New Year's Day Dinner 2019** Once again we are preparing for this annual dinner, which is an act of Radical Hospitality in our midst. Food donations and volunteers are needed. Look for sign up sheets in the hall and at the back of the church following worship. You can also donate cash through offering envelopes and mark it New Year's Day Dinner. If you have any questions, please talk to/email/phone Nancy @ [nancy.hillmer1@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.hillmer1@gmail.com) or 250-765-8776.

**Save the date** One day women's retreat Saturday, January 26, 2019.  
 Watch for more details, including a new location, to be announced.

<b>THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED</b> <b>DECEMBER 2 - 9, 2018</b>
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<b>Today</b>	8:30AM Informal worship: 14
	10:00AM Worship - Advent 1: Sanctuary
	11:15AM Coffee Hour: Hall/Kitchen
	11:30AM Advent Celebration: 12, Hall, Sanctuary
	11:30AM El Salvador meeting: 14
	3:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearsal: Belfry
<b>Monday</b>	10:00AM Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: 14
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00AM Coffee Hour & Outreach Ministry: Hall
	4:30PM Gone Fishin': Kitchen/Hall/26
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00AM Pastoral Care: 12
	1:00PM Book Study: 14
	6:30PM Youth Group: Youth room
	6:30PM Bible study: 14
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30AM Healing Ministry: Vestry
	10:00AM Coffee Hour & Outreach Ministry: Hall
	4:00PM Outreach Core Ministry: 13
	7:00PM Alleluia Singers rehearse: Sanctuary
<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	Youth Group sleepover: 14
<b>Next Sunday</b>	8:30AM Informal Worship: 14
	10:00AM Worship - Pageant: Sanctuary
	11:15AM Coffee Hour: Hall/Kitchen
	3:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearsal: Belfry
	4:30PM Christmas Lights (Twinkle) tour - refreshments in 14