

First United Church

4th Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

Worship Leader Donald Schmidt
Music Alleluia Singers, Frances Chiasson, Jessica Crawford
Greeters Joan Grahl, Bill Hetland, Lori Hetland
Ushers..... Kevin Huey, Beryl Itani, Linda Munce
Sound System..... Deanna Peck
Projectionist Benita Worley
Coffee Hour Keith Crawley, Ken Zarr
Minute Person..... Drew Irvine

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 Lumby United Church.

Offering Counters Today – Ken Ottoson, Linda Ottoson, Kathleen Smith.

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.

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.

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: We have been waiting for Christ to come.

All: He shall be the One of peace!

One: Christ will both comfort and disturb us.

All: He shall be the One of peace!

One: Christ will open up new challenges for us.

All: He shall be the One of peace!

One: Let us worship!

Hymn "Joy to the World" (*Voices United 59*)

Advent Prayer and Candle lighting

(Holly Pruden, Mackenzie Pruden, Marlene Pruden)

Prayer (**unison**)

Thank you, God, for loving us and for sending us Jesus to teach us about your love. As we prepare for Christ's coming, strengthen us to love others as you love us.

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 “Infant Holy” (*Voices United 58*)

Children leave for Sunday school

Anthem “A Voice Proclaims”-John Bell

Luke 1:39-55 (Leslie Atwell & Nicola Atwell)

Reflection

Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (*Voices United 35*)

Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession (Leslie Atwell)

The Lord’s Prayer (*Voices United 959*)

A Time of Musical Reflection and Thanksgiving

“The Coventry Carol”-*traditional English*

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

**We offer this day all that we are and all that we will be. We
receive your abundance, O God, that was born in Jesus, and
we give back to you now. Amen.**

Sending Forth

Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (*Voices United 48*)

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 "The Shepherds at the Manger"-F. Liszt, arr. E. Power Biggs

Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

*Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14*

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

721 Bernard Avenue, Kelowna BC V1Y 6P6

Phone 762-3311 Fax 762-7954

Web Site: www.firstunitedkelowna.ca

email: firstunited@telus.net

Donald's last service with us at First, is Sunday, Dec. 30 Please join us after the service for coffee and goodies and a chance to say "Bon Voyage".

Advent Giving Bags Turn your "want list" into someone else's "need list" as you focus this Advent season on the journey to Bethlehem. Pick up a set of bags at the Peace & Justice Table. Follow the instructions to fill and return these to the church each Sunday of Advent.

Rising to the Challenge Capital Fund year end drive! On November 18 the congregation met and decided overwhelmingly to support the recommendation of FirstUP! to proceed towards the replacement of the church hall with a new building. Terms of reference for this fund were approved by the Official Board in the spring. Now we'd like to kick off this ambitious project with a year-end drive to raise an initial \$50,000. Look for the table in the hall after worship where you'll find more information!

New Year's Day Dinner: Food Donations Needed We continue to need donations of food for the New Year's Day Dinner including all meats, salads, veggie trays and desserts. We also are looking for a couple people able to cook a donated turkey or ham. Look for the table in the hall this week or phone Nancy @ 250 765-8776 email nancy.hillmer1@gmail.com Thank you!

Reading Circle From 2010 to 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission documented the experiences of anyone personally affected by the Indian Residential School Experience. In June 2015 they published their final report, which outlined 94 Calls to Actions for Canadians. Okanagan Regional Library will be hosting a reading circle at the downtown library. The Reading Circle will read the **Executive Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future**. The Circle will gather the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 for a total of five months: January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9 and May 14. Debbie Hubbard a member here at First United will be one of the Circle facilitators. Pre-registration prior to January 8 is required as there is some pre-reading for the 8th If you are interested in learning more about or registering for the Reading Circle contact Debbie Hubbard at 250-469-4468 or at sowingseedsofpossibilities@gmail.com or check it out on Eventbrite: <https://areadingcircleforreconciliation.eventbrite.ca>

One day Women's Retreat Brochures are now available in the office for this retreat on Saturday, January 26, 2019. 9am-5pm in Glenmore.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED DECEMBER 23 - 30, 2018

Today	8:30AM Informal worship: 14
	10:00AM Worship: Sanctuary
	11:15AM Coffee Hour: Hall/Kitchen
	5:00PM Blue Christmas service: 14
Monday	Christmas Eve - office closed
	7:00PM Christmas Eve worship: Sanctuary
	11:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion: Sanctuary
Tuesday	Christmas Day - office closed
Wednesday	Office Closed
Thursday	Office Closed
Friday	Office Closed
Next Sunday	8:30AM Informal Worship: 14
	10:00AM Worship - Donald's last Sunday: Sanctuary
	11:15AM Coffee Hour: Hall/Kitchen