

# First United Church

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2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

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Worship Leaders ..... Cheryl Perry, Bob Wallace  
Music ..... Alleluia Singers, Frances Chiasson, Jessica Crawford  
Greeters ..... Susanne Donkin, Bill Hetland, Lori Hetland  
Ushers..... Marian Hamilton, Ken Ottoson, Marlene Spicer  
Communion servers..... Mike Chiasson, Noah Chiasson,  
..... Marian Hamilton, Murray White  
Sound System..... Deanna Peck  
Projectionist ..... Benita Worley  
Coffee Hour ..... Shelley Adamson, Myrna McRae  
Offering Counters ..... Ken Ottoson, Linda Ottoson, Edna Rennie  
Minute Person..... Chris Fabbi

**Welcome Table in the hall after worship** - Information about activities and services we offer at First United. Remember to update your Family Record so we have current contact information and emergency numbers and if you have not filled out a Family Record you are invited to do so!

**Infant and Toddler care** - Parents are welcome to keep infants with them during the service. As well, every Sunday care for infants and toddlers is available in Room 13 beginning 10 minutes before the start of the service. When children leave for Sunday School part-way through the service, preschoolers join these children for a preschool program that includes Bible stories, crafts, snack and play time.

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

**Food Share Containers in the hall** - for non-perishable food & hygiene items.

**Prayer Cycle** - This Sunday, in the annual rotation, we join with other churches to pray for Northwood United Church in Surrey.

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

# Gathering

Prelude “Drive the Dark of Doubt Away” arr. Rhonda Draper

Ringing of the Bell, Welcome, Announcements, Minute Person

Introit “Prepare A Way” Bryn Nixon

**The cold dark nights of wintertide  
foretells the hope that soon will bide.  
When we are lost Your voice calls out,  
prepare a way, a way for God’s peace.**

Advent Candle Lighting (The Chiasson Family)

**All: Dear God, you are our heart’s home. Your home is safe,  
loving, and eternal. But, so many of your children are  
trapped in homes that are not safe. Or they are forced to  
leave homes that are — for nightmares they barely escape.  
You chose to incarnate yourself into a family that had little  
else but love on the night you were born. Rescue us from the  
danger of being focused on ourselves so that we can see the  
needs, and the hope, around us. Draw us closer to your light  
as we draw closer to Christmas. Amen.**

Introit “Prepare A Way” Bryn Nixon

**This light will quell our earthly fears,  
embrace our streets that bring forth tears,  
This light of hope, your voice call out  
prepare a way, a way for God’s peace.**

Call to Worship (responsive)

Here we gather, where the echo of God’s voice still moves in the  
air.

**Lord, open our ears to hear you speak to us.**

Now we meet, as eternity is expressed in time.

**Lord, open our eyes to see you smile on us.**

Again, the Word of God is revealed among us in physical form.

**Lord, open our hearts to welcome you into our lives.**

Hymn "Northern Advent" -K. Ian Macdonald

Prayer of Reconciliation (responsive)

Forgive us, O Lord,

**when we seek to keep you to ourselves and shut others out from your influence.**

Forgive us, O Christ,

**when we wallow in our own weaknesses and take advantage of the weakness of others.**

Forgive us, O Spirit,

**when we deny your friendship and withhold your compassion from others.**

*We continue in silent prayers*

Words of Hope (responsive)

Trusting in God's grace, we cry out for your renewing love.

**Heal us, restore us, and empower us, O God, we pray, that we might be witnesses to your love for the sake of your Kingdom which comes into our world. Amen.**

Sung response "Ways of Wisdom" (*Spirit Anew #142*)

**Let us follow ways of wisdom  
and delight in ways of wisdom.**

**All her paths are peace.**

**All her paths are peace. (2x)**

Passing the Peace

## Word

Isaiah 7:10-16 (Sophia Chiasson)

Word for All Ages

Hymn "Hark the Glad Sound" (Voices United #29)

*Children leave for Sunday school*

Anthem "O Come to Us, Emmanuel"-Joseph Martin

Matthew 1:18-25 (Mike Chiasson)

Reflection

Hymn "Tomorrow, Christ Is Coming" (Voices United #27)

## Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession (Mike Chiasson)

A Time of Musical Reflection

"Nocturne" -Grandjany

Offertory "When Heaven's Bright" (*Voices United 93, vs. 4*)

**When heaven's bright with mystery  
and stars still lead an unknown way,  
when love still lights a gentle path  
where courts of power can hold no sway,  
there with the Magi, let us kneel,  
our gifts to share, God's world to heal.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**In this moment of worship, we embrace your presence again,  
O God. And we offer you our love. In this moment of prayer,  
we proclaim again your purpose for the world, O Saviour,  
and we offer you our resources. In this moment of giving we  
hear your call again, O Lord. And we offer you ourselves.**

## Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of God, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the One who heals our brokenness.**

Let us offer our thanks to God, who has prepared this Table for us.

**We will bless the One who offers us life in every moment.**

We thank and praise you, O God, for you are not distant and uninvolved in our lives and our world. But, you have come to us, humbly and gently, challengingly and irresistibly. And whoever receives you, whoever believes in you becomes a child of God, born of the Spirit.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might;**

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

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

So, we remember Jesus' birth and life, His suffering and victory. On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus shared His last meal with His friends; He took the loaf of bread and blessed it, then breaking it, He offered it to them saying:

**This is my body broken for you. Eat this in memory of me.**

After the meal, He took the cup of wine and blessed it, then He offered it to them saying:

**This is my blood shed for you. Drink this in memory of me.**

So, we eat and we drink and we remember.

**With hope and joy in the new life which comes in God's kingdom.**

God of Grace, Come to us again in this meal, and as we share this bread and wine, may we share in Christ's body and blood; May we offer ourselves to you again, and may we become one with Christ and with each other – a single, unified body. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Voices United 959, sung)

The Breaking and Sharing

Prayer Following Communion (unison)

**We thank you, Lord God, for breaking into our world, our lives and our experience.**

**We thank you, O Christ, for this meal of remembering, and the stories of love and grace that it tells.**

**We thank you, O Spirit, for your Presence and your challenge for us to become agents of God's compassion.**

**In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

## Sending Forth

Hymn "Before the Marvel of the Night" (Voices United 40)

Commissioning & Benediction (responsive)

Come, let us go with God to bring healing to the world.

**Come, let us bring family to the lonely, comfort to those who grieve.**

Come, let us go with Jesus to all are forgotten.

**Come, let us carry justice to the oppressed, to feed those who hunger in body and soul.**

Come, let us go with the faithful Spirit.

**Come, let us speak the gospel with our lips, let us share grace with our lives.**

Sung Response "He Is Born" (Voices United #50, Vs. 4)

**Jesus, Lord of all the world,  
coming as a child among us,**

**Jesus, Lord of all the world,  
grant to us your heavenly peace. (2x)**

Postlude "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem (Fantasy on Kingsfold)" -J. Carter

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### **Next Week's Lectionary Readings:**

*The third Sunday in Advent*

*Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11*

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**Ornaments for the Tree in our Sanctuary** This year as part of the theme of “home” in our sanctuary Advent decor, you are invited to bring an ornament from your home to help us decorate our tree! Ornaments may be reclaimed in January.

**Longest Night Service** – For many, this time of year holds conflicting emotions. On Saturday, December 21, starting at 3:00 pm, we will have a reflective time to acknowledge the struggles, walk the labyrinth and seek inner peace. This service is co-planned with Kelowna area United churches.

**A Fairer, Simpler Christmas.** Are you looking to simplify your Christmas shopping this year and at the same time support small scale farmers and artisans? The Outreach Core Ministry will be selling Salvadoran handicrafts, coffee, tea, olive oil soap, chocolate bars, olive oil and Za’atar on December 8 and 15 in the church hall after worship. All of these products make great teacher gifts, hostess gifts and stocking stuffers. The proceeds from our sales will support scholarships for our students in El Salvador and the Fair Trade coffee and tea that we serve here at First as part of our hospitality ministry. It truly is a win-win for us and our global neighbours.

**New Year’s Day Dinner 2020** - January 1<sup>st</sup> is quickly approaching! Once again we are starting preparations for the Annual Dinner, which is an act of Radical Hospitality in our midst. A variety of food donations and volunteers are needed. Look for sign up sheets in the hall following worship. You can also donate cash through offering envelopes and mark it New Year’s Day Dinner or use First United’s Gift Catalogue. If you have any questions please talk to/email/phone Alyssa @ 778 363-3414 [amcampbell88@yahoo.ca](mailto:amcampbell88@yahoo.ca)

**Mark Your Calendars:** One Day Women's Retreat, January 25th, 2020, Location: First United Church, 9am-4pm.

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED**  
**DECEMBER 8-15, 2019**

<b>Today</b>	8:30AM Informal worship: 14
	10:00AM Sunday Worship: Sanctuary
	11:00AM Refreshments: Hall
	12:00PM Finance Committee Christmas Party:14
	3:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearse: Belfry
	4:30PM Christmas Lights (Sparkle) tour
<b>Monday</b>	10:00AM Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: 14
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00AM Coffee Hour & Outreach: Hall
	12:00PM Isabel Leitch Unit (UCW) Christmas party: 14
<b>Wednesday</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30AM Healing Ministry: Vestry
	10:00AM Coffee Hour & Outreach: Hall
	7:00PM Alleluia Singers rehearse: Sanctuary
<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00AM Pageant rehearsal: Sanctuary
<b>Next Sunday</b>	8:30AM Informal Worship: 14
	10:00AM Pageant Sunday: Sanctuary
	11:00AM Refreshments: Hall
	3:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearse: Sanctuary