

First United Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

Worship Leaders Cheryl Perry, Bob Wallace
Music Frances Chiasson, Jessica Crawford
Greeters Jackie Kelly, Ken Ottoson, Linda Ottoson
Ushers..... Alyssa Campbell, Joan Grahl, Skip Kozuska
Sound System..... Carl Stef
Projectionist
Coffee Hour Brenda Maier, Greg Maier
Offering Counters Audrey Beal, Maggie Craig, Myrna MacKenzie

About Today's Pageant

Today's Christmas pageant is based on a wonderful classic tale *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson. This short 80-page novella is a great gift for a young reader or to make part of your family tradition. Ten copies are for sale after church today at the Welcome Table—just \$12 each!

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 the Okanagan Japanese Congregation in Kelowna.

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

Gathering

Prelude

Ring of the Bell, Welcome, Announcements

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 joy.**

Advent Candle Lighting (The Kranabetter-Fabbi family)

**ALL: God, You are the light of the world. In you, there is no
darkness at all. Help us to rejoice, like Mary did, that with
you there are no outcasts. There is no one who is not good
enough. As we continue on our journey through Advent, help
us remember that those who the world says do not belong,
you welcome with open arms. 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 joy.**

Call to Worship (responsive)

One: Be patient!

The time is coming when we will celebrate the birth of Jesus,

**All: when we will sing and rejoice,
dancing with everlasting joy.**

One: But for now, be patient,
as we wait in this time called Advent,

**All: when God speaks through dreams and visions,
and we are invited to dance
down the holy way into the kingdom.**

One: For this is Advent, as we prepare to join the world
in celebrating the Creator of goodness and hope,
**All: when those who limp will teach new dance steps,
when the voiceless sing and shout for joy.**

Hymn "A Candle is Burning" (Voices United 6)

Call to Reconciliation

Words of Hope

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

Word for All Ages

Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Voices United #60 vs. 1-4)

Pageant

Introduction to the Pageant

Scene One: Famous Last Words

Scene Two: Meet the Herdmans

Scene Three: The Take-Over

Scene Four: Missus Bradley, How Could You?

Song "Talking on the Telephone" *Liam Maloy*

Scene Five: The Show Must Go On

Scene Six: This Jesus Can't Bite You

Song "Away in a Manger" (*traditional*)

Scene Seven: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Song “Wisemen Still Adore Him” *arr. Clark Gassman*

Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession (Ben Seethaler)

A Time of Musical Reflection

“Lo, How a Rose” –arr. Mark Hayes

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

Sending Forth

Hymn “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (Voices United #46)

Commissioning & Benediction

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 “Sing We Now of Christmas” –arr. John Carter

Next Week’s Lectionary Readings:

The fourth Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Cast & Crew

Bob Bradley (Father): Chris Fabbi

Grace Bradley (Mother): Shelley Adamson

Ben Bradley/Narrator: Ashton Springer

Charlene (Charlie) Bradley: Sophia Chiasson

Ralph Herdman: Brock Campbell

Imogene Herdman: Emma Zhu

Leroy Herdman: Declan Hogan

Claude Herdman: William Campbell

Ollie Herdman: Alexander Campbell

Gladys Herdman: Adelaide Hogan

Alice Wendleken: Islene Vernet

Mrs. Armstrong: Beryl Itani

Little Kid #1: Noah Chiasson

Little Kid #2: Ailie Bertetic

Honey Carmichael: Charlotte Seethaler

Goodsmith Baby: Sam Goodsmith

Woman #1: Cheryl Perry

Woman #2: Tanya Burke

Woman #3: Suki Vernet

Angel Choir: Tru Fabbi, Ada Goodsmith, Lochlan Hogan, Logan Park, Ashton (Pruden), Jonathan Ward-Rodriguez, Ethan Zhu

Youth Choir/Shepherds: Ailie Bertetic, Alexander Campbell, Brock Campbell, William Campbell, Noah Chiasson, Sophia Chiasson, Tyson Fabbi, Declan Hogan, Adelaide Hogan, Lindsay (Pruden), Ben Seethaler, Charlotte Seethaler, Ashton Springer, Islene Vernet, Gregor Ward-Rodriguez, Emma Zhu

Pageant coordinators & assistants: Caitlyn Bertetic, Tanya Burke, Arata Campbell, Angel Ceal, Gerry Hewitt, Moira Pritchard, Suki Vernet, Jessica Vinton

Do you play an instrument?

You are invited to be part of “a medley of carols” before the 7pm service on Christmas Eve. Beginners and novices encouraged! In the past we’ve had flute, recorder, violin, piano, clarinet, and a family of singers! Speak to Cheryl for more details, or email her at cherylperry@telus.net

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.

Last chance on Sunday for a Fairer, Simpler Christmas shopping Help support small scale farmers and artisans at the Outreach Core Ministry’s table in the hall which is selling Salvadoran handicrafts, coffee, tea, olive oil soap, chocolate bars, olive oil, Za’atar and dates from Palestine. 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 as does the Fair Trade coffee and tea that we serve here at First. It truly is a win-win for us and our global neighbours.

New Year’s Day Dinner 2020 - January 1st 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. If you have any questions please talk to/email/phone Alyssa @ 778 363-3414 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 15-22, 2019

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| Today | 8:30AM Informal worship: 14 |
| | 10:00AM Pageant Sunday Worship: Sanctuary |
| | 11:00AM Refreshments: Hall |
| | 3:00PM Alleluia Ringers rehearse: Belfry |
| Monday | |
| Tuesday | 10:00AM Coffee Hour & Outreach: Hall |
| | 7:00PM Alleluia Singers rehearse: Sanctuary |
| Wednesday | |
| Thursday | 8:30AM Healing Ministry: Vestry |
| | 10:00AM Coffee Hour & Outreach: Hall |
| Friday | |
| Saturday | 10:00AM Cantata rehearsal |
| | 3:00PM Longest Night service: Hall |
| Next Sunday | 8:30AM Informal Worship: 14 |
| | 10:00AM Cantata Sunday Worship: Sanctuary |
| | 11:00AM Refreshments: Hall |
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