

# First United Church

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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

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Worship Leaders ..... Cheryl Perry, Bob Wallace  
Music ..... Alleluia Singers, Frances Chiasson, Sophia Chiasson,  
..... Jessica Crawford, Ciera Saundry, Charlotte Seethaler, Isabella Seethaler  
Readers ..... Nikki Attwell, John Whitehead  
Greeters ..... Carl Sapinski, Donna Sapinski, Helen Verokosky  
Ushers..... Linda Gilmour, Linda Munce, Susan Sullivan  
Sound System..... Beryl Itani  
Projectionist ..... Carol Drury  
Coffee Hour ..... Joa Lazarus, Judy Valks  
Offering Counters ..... Maggie Craig, Ron Green, Irene Pett

**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.

**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 love.**

Advent Candle Lighting (the Saundry family)

**All: God of Promise, we who have waited on love, trust that  
love will not let us down. May we share that hope and belief  
with others through our words and actions. Help us to  
behold you, Mysterious God, in the faces of those around us.  
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 love.**

Call to Worship (responsive)

Come, Over-flowing joy:  
**tip-toeing into our lives  
like the children on the holiest of nights.**  
Come, Good News of grace:  
**prepare our hearts to welcome you,  
and all whose hopes have turned to ashes.**  
Come, Dreamer of peace:  
**so we may pour our lives and gifts  
into a world in need of reconciliation.**

Hymn "People, Look East" (Voices United 9)

Prayer of Reconciliation (unison)

**Come now, Reconciler of the nations,  
for our world, our lives, need your peace more than ever  
before.**

**Come, Caller to discipleship,  
for we long to let go of our self-interest and narcissism.  
Come, Word Gifter, for we hunger to hear your voice once  
again, ever always.**

**Come, Servant of the poor, so we notice you in all those we  
push past in this hectic season.**

**Come, Silence of our nights and Holiness of our hearts, and  
forgive us for turning your compassion into commercials,  
your joy into jingles, your hope into hollow words, your love  
into lust for the short-lasting offerings of the world. May we  
find our way to the One born simply, born gracefully, for  
us—Jesus, the Child of wonder and life.**

Words of Hope (responsive)

We may not notice them there, at the back of the pile of presents,  
but it is God's hope, God's life, God's mercy, which are the true  
gifts we receive each and every moment.

**We give thanks to our gracious God, who has forgiven us and  
blessed us. 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

Word for All Ages

Hymn “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (Voices United #58)

*Children leave for Sunday school*

## Cantata

### On Christmas Night by Bob Chilcott

1. This is the Truth (I)

Reading: Isaiah 53:4-6

2. Adam lay ybounden

Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

3. A spotless Rose

Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

4. The Cherry Tree Carol

Reading: Luke 2: 1, 3-7

5. O little town

Reading: Luke 2:8-16

6. Sweet was the song

Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

7. Rejoice and be merry

8. This is the Truth (II)

## Thanksgiving

Prayer of Intercession

Lord’s Prayer

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 Dedication (unison)

**We must not take the gifts God gives to us, even the most tangible ones and hoard them for ourselves. Rather, we offer them, as well as our hearts and lives as offerings to those in true need around us. This we pray in the name of Bethlehem's Babe. Amen.**

## Sending Forth

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

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 Come, All Ye Faithful" -arr. John Carter

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## Next Week's Lectionary Readings:

Nativity of the Lord – Proper 1

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

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### 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](mailto:cherylperry@telus.net)

**New Year's Day Dinner 2020** - 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](mailto:amcampbell88@yahoo.ca)

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

<b>THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED</b> <b>DECEMBER 22-29, 2019</b>
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<b>Today</b>	8:30AM Informal worship: 14
	10:00AM Cantata Sunday Worship: Sanctuary
	11:00AM Refreshments: Hall
<b>Monday</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00AM Coffee Hour & Outreach: Hall
	<b>Church office closes at noon</b> <b>Reopens January 2/2020</b>
	7:00PM Christmas Eve worship: Sanctuary
	11:00PM Christmas Eve worship with communion: Sanctuary
<b>Next Sunday</b>	10:00AM Sunday Worship: Sanctuary
	11:00AM Refreshments: Hall