

**St. John's United Church**  
**November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**1<sup>st</sup> of Advent**  
**Rev. Stephen Sparks**

6

**HYMN SING**

**GREETINGS, WELCOMING NEWCOMERS,  
ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER CONCERNS AND  
CELEBRATIONS**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE**

One: For the signs in the sun and the moon and the stars,

**Many: we light this candle.**

One: For the unknown and the not yet,

**Many: we light this candle.**

One: For seeds planted in hope and prayers prayed in earnest,

**Many: we light this candle.**

One: For doubt and confusion,

**Many: We light this candle.**

One: For these days of wandering and wondering,

**Many: we light this candle.**

One: For all that we didn't know we were waiting for,

**Many: We light this candle.**

**ADVENT HYMN # 7 Hope Is a Star (vs.1)**

**BENEDICTION**

One: Holy and eternal God, out of the storms of the world we came into this quiet place to worship you our abiding Refuge.

**Many: Thanks be unto you for silence which unfolds strength and for tranquility leading us to things deep and true.**

One: Meet with us here in the inner place of our spirits and refresh us with your living presence.

**All: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**RECESSIONAL - Go Now In Peace**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid; God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true, know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe, reach out to others, so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen, amen, amen.**

**OFFERING****OFFERING HYMN # 55 vs. 4 Dedication**

**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do  
my part; yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16 Pg. 769**

**1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Pg. 258**

**Luke 21:25-36 Pg. 108, 109**

**SERMON**

**HYMN # 9 People, Look East (vs.1-2)**

**COMMUNION LITURGY**

**HYMN # 9 People, Look East (vs. 3-5)**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** Look the days are coming, when I shall fulfill the promise of happiness I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah.

**Many:** I shall make an upright Branch grow for David, who will do what is just and upright in the country.

**PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**God of all, as we await the fulness of your reign, may we be kept faithful, strong in hope, and active in service.  
Amen**

**HYMN # 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel****THE PASSING OF PEACE**

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

**One:** Let us greet one another in the love of God.

**CHILDREN'S STORY****PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**One:** Sometimes, we look around at all that you have entrusted to us, and we feel uneasy, O God. On land and water, high and low, where your creatures once teemed and filled the air with cries of joy, we now hear eerie silence.

**Many: Forgive us for not being signs of new hope, O God.**

One: Non-native species invade and mar our native landscapes, a sea of hungry faces, hour upon hour of television full of activity yet somehow empty of content.

**Many: Forgive us for not being signs of new hope, O God.**

One: Likewise, when we look within, we are often uneasy, aware of our failure to love each other, and your creation, and ourselves.

**Many: Forgive us for not being signs of new hope, O God. Transform our hearts and set us on pathways of justice and righteousness, that we might turn and be servants of healing for our world. Amen**

(Please stand)

**All: Almighty God, do not remain silent. Do not be unmoved or unresponsive to our needs: hear our prayer and answer it.**

One: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**PRAYER RESPONSE #22 Wait for the Lord  
Wait for the Lord, God's day is near.  
Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!**

## **PARDON AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Creator and Saviour God: Giver and Renewer of Life:  
We give You thanks for Your grace and mercy by which  
the burden of sin and guilt has been lifted from us.  
Blessed are you, God, most Holy, now and forever. Amen**

## **CHORAL RESPONSE # 37**

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to God, glory to  
God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God,  
hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**HYMN # 688 O Day of Good, Draw Nigh**

**RESPONSIVE READING Ps. #25 Refrain #2 Pg. 752**

## **GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the  
beginning, is now and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen**

**HYMN # 602 Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER # 959**

