

## St. John's United Church

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Second of Advent

Worship Leader – Rev. Sungsoon Park

### WELCOME

Greetings, welcoming newcomers, announcements, prayer concerns and celebrations.

We are looking for more choir members and musicians.

If you're interested, please join us.

### Centering Song VU # 22 Wait for the Lord

#### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

In this season of waiting, we light the Christ candle, a symbol of God's love made flesh and of light breaking into the world.

**The Advent season points us toward the manger of Bethlehem and the cross of Calvary.**

We light the Christ candle to remind us that we do not live in the shadows of despair and discouragement.

**Christ is here our hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**The light of Christ cannot be dimmed.**

**It shines for all, now and forever. Amen.**

*The Christ candle is lit.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Eagerly awaiting the coming of Christ,  
we behold the mystery of God's dawning presence among us.

**God of mercy, we long for your grace,  
to heal the sin within us and the brokenness of this world.**

We trust in the miracle that in this world of fear and injustice  
a shepherd comes, both mighty and gentle, bearing mercy and power.

**Loving God, we open our hearts to you,  
and await your gracious coming.**

Come, O Love! May your grace be born in our hearts.

**Come, O Saviour! May your peace dawn on our world. Amen.**

### Regular Office Hours

10:00am-12:00pm Tuesday and Thursday

Office: 780.826.3003

E-mail: [bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com](mailto:bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com)

Website: [www.bonnyvilleunitedchurch.ca](http://www.bonnyvilleunitedchurch.ca)

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.  
If you would like to continue with weekly offerings they can  
be sent in by:

Mail to: 4510-43Ave T9N 1R4

E-Transfer to: [bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com](mailto:bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com)

Join PAR: Contact Stacy Mercier 780.812.6492

### This Week: December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Worship Leader: Rev. Sungsoon Park

Greeters: Jeanette Poulin & Eileen Schmidt

Scripture: Marilyn Thornton

Fellowship: Bev Cameron & Nancy Hite

### Next Week: December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Worship Leader: Rev. Sungsoon Park

Greeters: Ed & Judy Inman

Scripture: Kathy Cobler

Fellowship: Pat Wood & Millie Highberg

Blessed are you, O God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous things.

**Blessed is your glorious name for ever. May the whole earth be filled with your glory.**

*Refrain: Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.*

### SERMON Reflection

HYMN VU # 28 Herald! Sound the note of Gladness

### COMMISSIONING

With us in our highest hopes and most treasured dreams,  
**with us in our darkest setbacks,**  
 with us in our deepest struggles:  
**journey with us now, God of the Advent season.**  
 Deepen our faith, show us the faithful way, keep us faithfully on the way,  
**that we may respond to the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

### BENEDICTION HYMN

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**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - *Peace*

#### HYMN VU # 7 "Hope Is a Star" vs 2

This Peace Advent candle represents our hope for peace.

**We live amidst violence, but God promises peace.**

We bear bitterness and judgment toward one another, but God calls us to love.

**Christ comes among us to lead us to gentleness and compassion.**

May the Christ child lead us to lives of justice and courage.

**May the Christ child be born in us, the child of peace.**

God of mercy, rule over us with righteousness,

**and remove all oppression and violence.**

Help us to repent, and to bear the fruits of your love.

**Come, Holy Child, and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!**

*The candle of peace is lit.*

### PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

### CHILDREN'S TIME

#### OPENING PRAYER

Come with us on our Advent journey, O God;

**Give us the surprise of Mary, as we realize how much you are ready to do for us.**

Befriend us on our Advent journey, O God;

**Give us the endurance of Joseph, as we realize how far you will journey with us.**

Stay with us on our Advent journey, O God;

**Give us the wonderful joy of the angels, as we realize we can praise you in our own time.**

Keep us rooted on our Advent journey, O God;

**Give us the practical response of the shepherds, even as the significance of Christ's birth fills us with awe.**

**OPENING HYMN** VU # 2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

This is the path we will follow, O God,

**The path of John the Baptist, prophet and visionary.**

When with the crowd, we are following the way of ease and self-interest,

**give us the courage to speak out and act justly.**

When with the Pharisees and Sadducees, we are self-centered and self-righteous,

**help us to discover humility and compassion.**

When with the crowd, we are amazed that John would single out Jesus,

**give us the faith to acknowledge, and to follow, your Anointed One.**

### **WORD OF ASSURANCE**

Repentance is your call to us through the prophet John.

**answering the call to repentance requires deep reflection,**

**a recognition of unfaithful practices, and resolute action...**

*Time of reflection...*

In the decision to repent, pardon, and peace are yours.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**HYMN** VU # 680 Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **OFFERING**

**DEDICATION SONG** VU # 55 In the Bleak Midwinter vs 4

**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.**

### **DEDICATION PRAYER**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 11:1-10 pg. 679

Romans 15:4-9 pg. 202

Matthew 3:1-12 pg. 5

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 72 pt. 1 & 3 VU pg. 790, 791

***Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.***

Give the ruler your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal heir,

**for judging your people rightly, and upholding the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,  
**and the hills, prosperity with justice.**

***Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.***

May your anointed defend the cause of the poor among the people, save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.

**May your anointed live as long as the sun endures, as long as the moon from age to age.**

May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass, like showers that water the earth;

**May your anointed be one in whose days justice shall flourish and peace abound till the moon is no more.**

***Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.***