

*OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(together we pray)*

You, O God, breathe hope into our world, urging us to see the Word with eyes of kinship and connection. Bless these gifts of hope and give us strength of heart, body and mind to do your work of blessing the world. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes" *LOVELACE*

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF CARE

PRAYERS OF THE HEART & THE LORD'S PRAYER

JOURNEYING & WAITING

*CLOSING SONG: "People Look East" v. 1, 4, 5 V9

*COMMISSIONING & BLESSING:

Let us go out into the world
with our hearts full of God's hope,
as we keep alert for Jesus entering our world anew.

May the God who leads us to new hopes,
Jesus who comes to make a new world with us,
And the Holy Spirit who nudges on to the protest of the manger,

Be with us today, this week, this season, and evermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE: "On Eagles' Wings" *EDWARDS*

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Sources: Advent Candlelighting from *gathering: resources for worship planners A/C/E 2009-2010 (Year C)*, p. 43. Anthems, Advent Song, offertory response as cited. All used with permission. Prayers from a service prepared by the Rev Miriam Spies, a United Church minister who preached the opening service for General Council 43 in July 2018 and who lives with cerebral palsy.

Special Dates at this Time

Dec 1 – 30th Anniversary of World AIDS Day.

Dec 1 – Eric Devlin's 98th Birthday!

Dec 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Dec 3 – Chanukah begins (*Judaism*)

Dec 6 – St Nicholas

Dec 6 – National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence
Against Women. 29th Anniversary

Dec 8 – Bodhi Day (*Buddhism*)

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



December 2nd, 2018
First Sunday of Advent

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The First Sunday of Advent – ‘Hope’

The First Sunday of a New Church Year with the Gospel of Luke

December 2nd, 2018 10:00AM

ST PAUL’S UNITED CHURCH

The asterisk (*) invites you to stand in body or in spirit

GATHERING & WAITING

PRELUDE: “Grazioso”

SHERMAN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55AM)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

INTROIT: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” COWEN

WELCOMING THE WORD & LIGHT

CALL TO COMMUNITY

The days are coming:

When God’s promises are fulfilled.

The days are coming:

When God leads us on paths of right living.

The days are surely coming:

When God’s reign draws near.

Let us worship our God of promise and hope.

Let us come to our God who comes to us as
Emmanuel, ‘God with us.’

*HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v. 1, 2

VU1

GATHERING PRAYER (*We pray together*)

Holy and Eternal God,

As we await the coming of our Messiah,
for you to enter our lives and our world,
may our hopes for your coming kingdom
echo your hopes.

Challenge us to recognize your path for us.

Help us to grow expectantly in community,
as we make the pilgrimage
to the manger once again
to witness to your ways
and your grace in the world.

In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

SHARING TIME: “Spending Time in the Stable – with the Animals”

ADVENT SHARING SONG: “We Light A Candle”

BOWMAN/KINGSBURY

The Choir will sing through first, then the Congregation joins in

We light a candle for all people
in need of tender care.

There is a **hope** for brighter days;
this message we will share.

A candle’s light will guide our way
so Christ is born in us today.

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ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING: *The Kids, Congregation & Choir*

This morning we light the first candle of Advent,
the candle of **Hope**.

(The first blue candle is lit)

**Our hope is firmly grounded in God, who holds our lives
and who is always at work in us,
for the good of the world.**

Hope burns brightly in the December darkness.

Hope will be our guide as we journey again to Bethlehem.

ADVENT SHARING SONG: “We Light a Candle” *Reprise Above*

JUNIOR CHOIR: “Come, Lord Jesus”

BEDFORD

The children and leaders leave for Sunday School

LISTENING & WAITING

HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Jeremiah 33:14-16 *‘the righteous branch’*

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 25:1-10 *Refrain 2*

VU752

THE EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 *high hopes*

THE GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36 *signs of the times*

THE MESSAGE: “God’s Home Invasion of Hope”

REFLECTING ON THE WORD: “How Can I Keep from Singing”

GIVING & WAITING

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY INTERLUDE: “Canon of Grace” LAMB

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: “Giver of All Good Gifts”

This day we bring our gifts,

our small part to spread our hope,

our **hope** which rests in God alone.

Now we await the birth, the Blessed Saviour’s birth,
Come now, O Lord Emmanuel!

(Words: Laurie MacCuish, ©2004 Tune: ‘Fairest Lord Jesus’ VU341)