



Sunset United Church

December 12, 2021 - Advent 3
A Home for All/Joy/Choir Sunday



*Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,
is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.*

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music Sing We Now of Christmas
Piano duet - Shirley Hill & Barbara Flaten-Orr

Hymn VU#1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel¹ (v. 5)
 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Call to Worship²

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

It sings of a home for all.

It speaks of justice and peace.

We could choose to ignore it.

We could drown out that song.

We could choose not to listen.

Instead, we come into this space.

We let the world grow quiet.

We listen.

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

Do you hear it?

We hear it. In listening, we worship.

Let us draw near to God.

Anthem

Baby in a Manger
Words by J. Paul Williams
Music by Laura Manzo

Advent Candle Liturgy

Sung Refrain VU#7 Hope is a Star³ (v. 1, 2 & 3)

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

Refrain

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

Refrain

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.**

Refrain

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

It takes courage to tell the truth...

...Than God already does. Let us pray:

Expansive God,

We know that the church is your house,

And your house has room for everyone.

Yet, too often,

Instead of setting the table for our neighbours,

We block the door.

Instead of welcoming all,

We judge others by our own standards.

Instead of sharing our second coat,

We hide it in the attic,

Holding on to fear

Instead of letting go with love

Remind us that your home

Is a home for all,

That truth requires hard work,

That truth requires uncomfortable justice.

Help us to be bold enough to see it

And brave enough to live it.

With hope, we pray,

Amen

Words of Assurance

Family of faith,

God sent prophets like John the Baptist

To use because this work is not easy.

Helping create a world where all

Might have a home,

And all might be loved,

And all might know peace,

Is an audacious goal.
Fortunately for us,
When we mess up-
When we lose our way or forget our call
We are met with grace.
God could not love us any more
Or any less than God already does.
So rest in this good news:
**We are at home with God –
Forgiven, claimed, and loved.
The door is always open for us.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

Anthem Advent Carol of Hope
 Words by Don Besig & Nancy Price
 Music by Don Besig

Sharing the Story

Anthem Can You See the Light?
 Words by Don Besig & Nancy Price
 Music by Don Besig

WE LISTEN

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Luke 3:7-18

Anthem

How Quietly
Words and music by Joel Raney

Reflection

Anthem

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love
Words and music by Joesph M. Martin

Prayers of the Community and The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Anthem

Bethlehemtown
Words and music by Robert C. Clatterbuck

Sending Forth and Blessing

Postlude

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**Minister:** Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)  
**Children & Youth Minister:** Michelle McConkey (she/her)  
**Choir Director:** Corinne Groff (she/her)  
**Pianist:** Shirley Hill (she/her)

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¹ Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca. 9th century; trans. John Mason Neale 1851, et al. Music: 15th century plainsong melody; arr.

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² Worship liturgy and prayers written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org. Used with permission.

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